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Independent.ie

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

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'End of the old FAI'

:: Threat of potential prosecution | :: Entire board set to step down | :: But Delaney 'still on the payroll'

Donal O'Donovan and Daniel McDonnell

THE threat of prosecution hangs over FAI directors and John Delaney amid serious allegations of financial irregularities at the organisation.

The FAI is engulfed in the biggest crisis in its history with the entire board preparing to step down and the scope of the investigation widening.

Auditors Deloitte reported the company for failing to keep proper accounting records, which is potentially a criminal offence.

The entire board of the organisation will step down within months, in a massive clear-out following the controversy over the €100,000 loan from Mr Delaney.

But Mr Delaney, the former chief executive who this week "stepped

aside" from his role as executive vice president, is said to be "still on the payroll".

There remains little clarity on his immediate future as a forensic audit of the association joined the growing list of investigations to be carried out.

The FAI's corporate unravelling accelerated dramatically, with serious allegations made to the Companies Registration Office.

The FAI's own auditors Deloitte were revealed to have informed authorities that soccer's governing body had failed to keep proper accounting records. This move raised the prospect that directors or former directors could face prosecution over how the association was run.

The news came just ahead of Sport Ireland's hearing at an Oireachtas committee which further highlighted

the scale of the FAI's turmoil.

Sports Minister Shane Ross described it as the "beginning of the end of the old FAI". Fine Gael TD Noel Rock has confirmed he is one of the people that has contacted the corporate watchdog, the ODCE, and said "other agencies are watching this developing situation with interest".

Continued on Page 2

Cathedral catastrophe: But Notre-Dame to be rebuilt 'within five years'



Destruction: Roof debris lies at the foot of the cross inside Notre-Dame Cathedral after firefighters declared success in a more than 12-hour battle to extinguish an inferno engulfing Paris' iconic landmark that claimed its spire and roof. **Full story p4-5** PHOTO: CHRISTOPHE PETIT TESSON, POOL VIA AP

Booming economy sees incomes soar to record levels

Donal O'Donovan and David Chance

HOUSEHOLD income is at a record high and growing sharply, underpinned by jobs and investment, according to a new report.

Rising incomes are being underpinned by "exceptional levels" of business investment and related employment effects, employers' group Ibec said.

In its latest Quarterly Economic Outlook, Ibec says per-person household income is at a record high and growing 6pc annually – and by more than 11pc cumulatively since 2015. UK households saw their incomes fall by 1.2pc over the same period.

Meanwhile Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe has claimed spending has been brought under control and promised there will not be a repeat of last year's €600m Department of Health spending overrun.

Full story, Page 12

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Vol. 128 No. 92 Irish Independent



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Irish Independent

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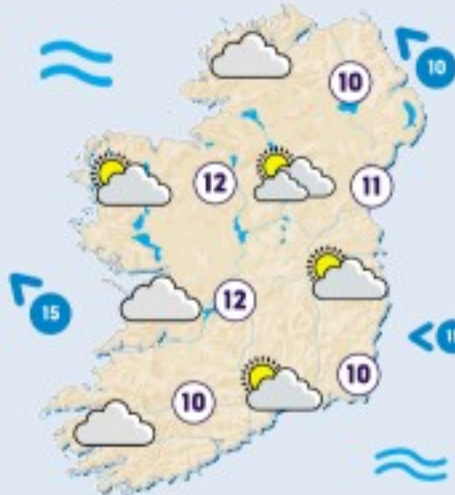
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Competition entry forms on Page 6 & 16

Today's weather

A dry day with plenty of cloud. Ulster will be overcast for much of the day before some late sunshine in the early evening. The rest of the regions will start the day overcast, before the cloud lightens as time goes on. Moderate southeasterly winds.



	AM	PM
Athlone	Cloudy 12C	Cloudy 15C
Ballina	Cloudy 10C	Bright 14C
Bantry	Cloudy 11C	Bright 13C
Belfast	Cloudy 14C	Cloudy 15C
Carlow	Cloudy 12C	Cloudy 14C
Carrick-on-Shannon	Cloudy 12C	Bright 16C
Castlebar	Cloudy 12C	Bright 14C
Cork	Cloudy 11C	Cloudy 12C
Derry	Cloudy 12C	Bright 14C
Donegal	Bright 12C	Bright 16C
Drogheda	Cloudy 12C	Cloudy 15C
Dublin	Fair 12C	Fair 13C
Galway	Cloudy 10C	Bright 13C
Gilkenney	Cloudy 12C	Cloudy 14C
Killarney	Cloudy 9C	Cloudy 10C
Limerick	Cloudy 13C	Bright 16C
Portlaoise	Bright 12C	Bright 16C
Roscommon	Cloudy 12C	Bright 16C
Tipperary	Cloudy 13C	Bright 16C
Tralee	Cloudy 10C	Bright 11C
Waterford	Bright 11C	Bright 13C
Wexford	Bright 11C	Bright 13C
Wicklow	Fair 12C	Fair 14C

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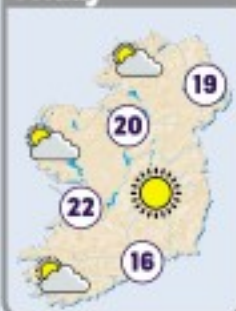
DAYLIGHT
Sun rises: 06.21
Sun sets: 20.28
Lighting-up: 21.00

MOON PHASE
Full Moon April 19
Rises: 19.11
Sets: 06.28

Tomorrow



Friday



Europe



News

Endgame for 'old FAI' as board to step down amid fresh crisis

Continued from Page 1

The specific filing in relation to the FAI said it had contravened Sections 281 and 282 of the Companies Act 2014 – the specific rules setting out how a company must maintain adequate accounting records.

It did not say when, or how the alleged breaches had happened or indicate what had happened to cause the auditors to make the move.

Failure to maintain proper books is regarded as a Category 2 offence under the Companies Act – and is potentially a criminal offence.

In extreme cases offences can result in fines of up to €50,000 and up to five years in prison.

Deloitte had signed off as auditors on the FAI's most recent accounts with nothing to indicate its accountants were unhappy or had reservations about the information supplied.

However, those filing make clear that auditors relied on information provided by the directors and that the directors themselves are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

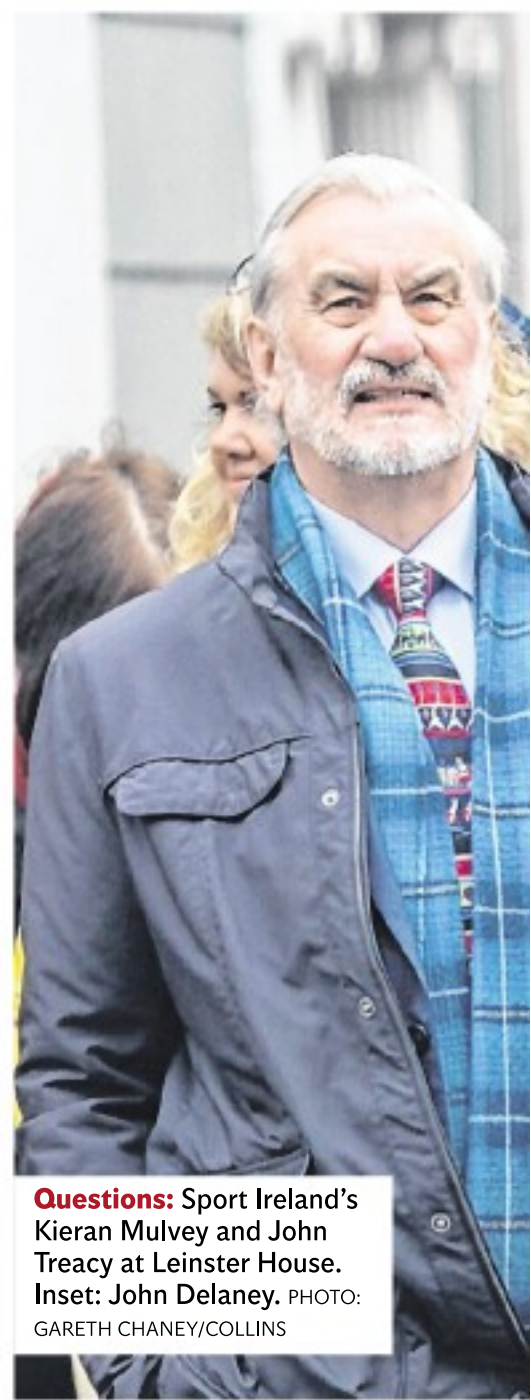
A spokesperson for Deloitte said: "We take our audit process and our statutory obligations very seriously, and have acted accordingly; however we cannot comment on client matters."

Meanwhile, Sport Ireland chief John Treacy said a meeting with the FAI had suggested that Mr Delaney is "still on the payroll" at Abbotstown after his talks with its board on Monday around his position.

Kieran Mulvey, the chair of Sport Ireland, offered his opinion that Mr Delaney is on the equivalent of 'gardening leave' pending an ongoing investigation into the FAI's affairs. The FAI said he had voluntarily stepped aside.

The delegation confirmed that global auditors Mazars will be looking into credit card expenses and third-party payments as part of their work. Sport Ireland has appointed Aidan Horan, of the Institute of Public Administration, to chair a review of governance of the FAI.

It has also agreed with the FAI that it will carry out a full audit but admitted it has yet to find a suitable auditor and the process is "complicated" by a



Questions: Sport Ireland's Kieran Mulvey and John Treacy at Leinster House. Inset: John Delaney. PHOTO: GARETH CHANEY/COLLINS

possible overlap with the work of Mazars and the ODCE.

Whatever happens with the ongoing enquiries, the FAI has committed to change at the top level.

The organisation has suffered a tumultuous month dating back to the revelation that Mr Delaney provided a €100,000 loan in 2017.

The eight remaining members of the board have said they will stand down ahead of the next AGM in July, with an EGM likely to be staged before then.

Under questioning, it was outlined that Sport Ireland does not have the power to

Association will never be the same

Daniel McDonnell



FORGET Saipan. That was a row in a piano room. This is the whole Titanic going down.

The FAI, as we know it, will never be the same again. It should never be allowed to be the same again.

Through the greatest difficulty in the association's history, an opportunity beckons – as surreal as that may sound in the wake of four ongoing reviews and implications which really should not be figuring in any sports story.

That opportunity is to reform an archaic model which is simply not fit for purpose when you are talking about a business with a €50m turnover that is trying to compete in a truly global sport.

And that's why the board members on their way out have one last chance to rewrite their epitaph.

They can be remembered as the group who sat around a top table that was dominated by John Delaney to the extent they weren't even told when he gave his employer a €100,000 dig-out.

Let's be honest – that should probably be their legacy. But they do have the chance now to fully instigate a process of change which ensures that the FAI's main

decision-making body is never again comprised of individuals with their backgrounds.

What's required is a senior management review that will have to go a little bit further than the Jonathan Hall report which, in the opinion of Catherine Murphy TD, was centred far too much around the importance of one man's gig with UEFA.

Stepping down at an EGM or an AGM really isn't good enough if what follows is an election of FAI Council members to replace them.

This is the FAI Council which has been incapable of throwing up candidates to stand against the long serving board members that were part of the wallpaper



stop board members from standing for election again – but the *Irish Independent* understands that only a handful would consider doing so.

Oireachtas committee members and Sport Ireland are in favour of a complete revamp of the FAI Council structure that elects the FAI board.

They also want changes in how the board operates. Mr Treacy said that the FAI structure was “similar” to the old Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI) under the direction of Pat Hickey, stating that the impression he got was that “the FAI board were followers, not leaders”.

The former Olympic silver medallist added that “the balance was wrong” in the relationship between the board and the CEO.

Both Mr Ross and Mr Treacy would like the board to be drawn from a wider range of society with independent representation.

Mr Ross envisages a “stakeholders forum”, which would include ex-players – both male and female – and also supporter representation.

Meanwhile, Mr Treacy wants the FAI to prioritise finding individuals with experience of corporate governance.

Fine Gael’s John O’Mahony

used his time at the five-hour hearing to seek clarity on the consequences for large sports capital projects while a funding suspension remains in place.

Mr Ross said that the people behind plans, such as the centre of excellence in Glanmire, Co Cork, the renovation of Dalymount Park, Dublin, and stadiums for Finn Harps and Drogheda, can still apply ahead of today’s deadline and funds could be allocated.

But they will not be able to draw down any money until the Government is happy that the sport has reformed to the extent that it is worthy of funding.

How company law affects FAI

AUDITORS Deloitte issued a formal notice to the Company Registration Office stating that “proper accounting records” were not kept at the FAI, which is a limited company and subject to company law.

Specifically, the FAI said it had contravened Sections 281 and 282 of the Companies Act 2014 – the rules on adequate accounting records.

It did not say when or how the alleged breaches had happened or indicate what had happened to cause the auditors to make the dramatic move.

The unusual step of reporting the failure was made on Friday, April 12, using a standard form known as a H4.

Because of the time involved in processing corporate filings, the document only became publicly available yesterday. The FAI itself would have been aware in advance.

Failing to keep proper books of accounts is a specific offence under Sections 281 and 282 of the Companies Act.

In extreme cases it can lead to jail sentences and heavy fines, specifically if it resulted in people being left out of pocket, or if it made it harder to shut a business down in an orderly fashion.

Generally speaking those issues are only thrown up if a company goes into liquidation.

But the simple fact the H4 form was sent to the Companies Office triggers a knock-on action of the issue being brought to the attention of the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement, the State’s white-collar crime enforcement agency.

REFORM

New name could help in rebuilding trust, says Quinn

Wayne O'Connor

FORMER Ireland international Niall Quinn has proposed a renaming of the FAI under root-and-branch measures to reform the embattled association.

Quinn met with TDs, senators and members of the football community in Leinster House yesterday to outline a vision of change for the future of Irish football.

He welcomed news of the FAI board resigning but said it was “not a silver bullet” and further change was necessary.

He cited the Olympic Federation of Ireland, formerly the Olympic Council of Ireland, which underwent a series of changes following the fall-out from the Rio ticket controversy.

During the Leinster House meeting he said a name change could be considered. After the meeting Quinn explained further.

“I threw it out there because the Olympic Federation has just come into a really good place.”

Quinn said reform of corporate structures



Vision of change: Niall Quinn said we need to change the way football is run in this country



Comment

Faith in the

FAI can

only be

restored

if it drops

its evasive

tactics and

is open

about

governance

change

Colette

Browne

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and changing how football is run in Ireland is necessary for it to see long-term improvements.

He said the board stepping away provides an opportunity for more serious reform.

First, he wants people working abroad, or others who have stepped away from Irish football, to return and drive the game. He said he has already been in contact with people interested in filling key roles.

Quinn also wants to change how leagues are run and spoke about opening new avenues with Government to increase funding and support.

He said football could follow the example of the horse racing and greyhound industries – which benefit from State funding via the Department of Agriculture.

Quinn said football could lobby for similar funding. “We could do great things, starting with the league.”

“The narrative now must change to rebuilding trust for all of the stakeholders. Football needs to do that right now. It is not as simple as removing the CEO and the board.”

again if board does the right thing

during Delaney’s CEO years.

Is this where the FAI looks for inspiration? To the assembly room that sat quiet during every AGM as they listened to speeches from the podium which presented the glass as somewhere between half full to overflowing.

Under the current governance structure, that’s where they have to go.

Scroll the list of options and you will find some names that only came to national prominence in recent weeks because they signed statements extolling the virtues of the association’s former leader.

In their respective localities, they are well known as veterans of their own patch. The parallels

with the superiors are striking.

Sport Ireland chief John Treacy believes the leading voices on the sub-committee of the FAI board are now trying to do the

A seat on the board should not be a reward for service

right thing, much as they have been condemned by TDs for “evasive” answers and springing important information on them at the last minute. Those FAI officials must now embrace calls for a reshaping of the board system and the rules propping it up.

It is clear that Sport Ireland, the statutory body, does not have the power to demand it.

But the ball is in the court of the FAI board now, as they can now set the wheels in motion for an evolutionary EGM just two years before the association marks its centenary.

Independent voices are required, and they shouldn’t need to serve time at constituency and committee level before scaling the ladder.

A seat on the board is not a reward for service. It should be a recognition of what that person is capable of delivering.

From the rubble of a month of mayhem, this is the FAI’s window to save itself.



An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

ARMY RIFLE RANGES

WARNING

If you are walking in the countryside
do not walk onto any of the
Military Firing Ranges
as you could be in

GREAT DANGER

at all times from unexploded shells
and other dangerous ammunition

**RED FLAGS indicate
LIVE FIRING**

Watch out for the warning signs

AND TAKE CARE!

RAONTA RAIDHFILÍ AN AIRM

FOLÁIREAMH

Má bhíonn tú ag siúl faoin tuath,
ná siúil isteach i gceann ar bith de
na Raonta Lámhaigh Míleata
mar d’fhéadfá a bheith i

nDEARG-BHAOL

i gcónaí de bharr sliogáin
neamhphléasctha agus armlón
contúirteach eile

**Is ionann BRATACHA
DEARGA agus BEO-LÁMHACH**

Bí ag faire do na comharthaí foláirimh

AGUS BÍ AR d’AIRDEALL!



Notre-Dame to be rebuilt in five years, says Macron

Samuel Petrequin
IN PARIS

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron has set a target of five years for the ruined Notre-Dame Cathedral to be rebuilt.

Mr Macron outlined his hopes for the restoration in an address to the nation last night, little more than 24 hours after the fire.

He said France “will rebuild Notre-Dame Cathedral even more beautifully” and pledged to “mobilise” as he thanked emergency services and donors who pledged money for the work.

In a series of tweets after the address, Mr Macron said: “We will rebuild Notre-Dame Cathedral, even more beautiful, and I hope that it will be completed within five years.”

“In our history, we have built cities, harbours, churches. Many have burned or been destroyed, by wars, revolutions, men’s faults.

“Every time we rebuilt them,” he added.

“The fire of Notre-Dame reminds us that our history never stops, never, and that we will always have trials to overcome.”

Nearly 400 firefighters battled through the night before the blaze was declared fully extinguished at about 10am local time.

Two police officers and one firefighter were injured, and at one point it was feared the 850-year-old Gothic masterpiece would be completely destroyed in the blaze, which lasted more than 12 hours.

Investigators believe that the blaze was caused by accident, possibly as a result of restoration work taking place.

By yesterday evening, more than €600m had been pledged from French families and companies including Total and L’Oreal Group.

The cathedral also housed

a collection of valuable treasures.

French Culture Minister Franck Riester said some which were salvaged were stored overnight in the Paris town hall to be moved to the Louvre museum “as soon as possible”.

He said major paintings are not likely to be removed until Friday morning.

“They have not been damaged but there could be some damage from the smoke so we are going to take them safely and place them in the Louvre where they will be dehumidified and they will be protected, conserved and then restored,” Mr Riester said.

Fifty investigators are now working on a “long” and “complex” probe into the cause, Paris prosecutor Remy Heitz told reporters.

They will interview workers from five companies hired to work on renovations to the cathedral roof.

Speaking in front of the cathedral, junior interior minister Laurent Nunez said: “The task is – now the risk of fire has been put aside – about the building, how the structure will resist.”

It was expected to take 48 hours after the fire was extinguished for the structure to then be deemed safe enough to enter.

Donors to the restoration project include French tycoon Bernard Arnault and his luxury goods group LVMH.

He has pledged €200m after a reported €100m donation was promised by another French billionaire, Francois Pinault.

L’Oreal Group, the Bettencourt Meyers family and the Bettencourt Schueller Foundation jointly also pledged €200m, while oil and gas company Total said it would give €100m towards reconstructing the “architectural jewel”.



Fate of treasures: What was lost and what has survived the horrific blaze

Chiara Giordano

SEVERAL of the most sacred artefacts and objects housed at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris have been saved following the fire – but the fates of others are still unclear.

The 850-year-old Gothic cathedral was home to

dozens of objects of cultural and historical significance, including the holy crown of thorns believed to have been worn by Jesus at his crucifixion and the tunic of Saint Louis. The French Interior Ministry announced yesterday that “the walls have been preserved and at least 30pc of the artworks

Workers who left minutes before fire

David Chazan

FRENCH detectives investigating the Notre-Dame fire yesterday questioned workers who had been restoring the cathedral and left the site minutes before the blaze broke out.

The inferno that consumed most of the roof was probably started accidentally, said Remy Heitz, the Paris prosecutor, possibly as a result of restoration work on crumbling upper

sections of the cathedral and the spire.

“Nothing indicates a deliberate act,” he said.

Some 50 investigators from the Paris police criminal division – half of its detectives – have been assigned to the case. Among those they have interviewed are 12 employees of the firm which was leading the €150m four-year restoration, Le Bras Brothers, based in Jarny, north-eastern France.

The highly respected spe-

‘The fire probably started in the roof’

cialist company has restored cathedrals and churches in Strasbourg, Reims, Poitiers, Verdun, Amiens and other French cities. It had recently started restoring the 300ft wooden spire of Notre-Dame, which was added to the 850-year-old cathedral in the 19th century and collapsed in Monday’s fire.

“All I can tell you is that at the moment the fire began none of my employees were on the site. We respected all pro-

Determined:

French President Emmanuel Macron sits at his desk after addressing the nation.

PHOTO: YOAN VALAT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



News
Trump bids to stop ‘political attacks’ on his presidency
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SAFE: Descent from the cross

The cross and statue on Notre-Dame's high altar – sculpted by Nicolas Coustou in 1723 – were believed to have survived intact despite being surrounded by smoke and debris.

SAFE: Great Organ

With nearly 8,000 pipes, some dating back to the 1700s, Notre Dame's master organ is one of the largest in the world.

The monumental instrument, the largest in France, was fully restored in 2013 with each pipe cleaned. Paris's deputy mayor, Emmanuel Gregoire, said the instrument remained intact following the fire.

SAFE: Bells

Housed in the two western towers, Notre Dame's bells have rung out at key moments in France's history. Emmanuel, the largest bell, was lifted into the south tower in 1685 and weighs more than 23 tonnes. The fire was prevented from spreading to the bell towers.

SAFE: Crown of thorns

Believed to be a relic of the wreath of thorns placed on the head of Jesus Christ at his crucifixion, the object was stored in the cathedral's treasury.

French King (later Saint) Louis IX brought the relic, which is contained in an elaborate gold case, to Paris in 1238. The crown was saved and has been taken into safekeeping.

SAFE: Tunic of Saint Louis

The tunic allegedly worn by Saint Louis IX as he brought the crown of thorns to Paris was kept inside the cathedral. It has been saved.

SAFE: Statues on the roof

The week before the fire, religious statues set atop the cathedral were removed for the first time in more than 100 years as part of the restoration project. A 100m crane lowered the copper statues representing the 12 apostles and four evangelists onto a lorry.

DESTROYED: Spire

The spire toppled soon after it was engulfed by flames.

Devastation: Clockwise from main, the damage inside the cathedral; an interior view; the outside of the building; before and after the fire

yesterday morning suggested the circular window of the nave had remained intact.

DESTROYED: Irreplaceable wooden roof

Crowds of tourists and Parisians watched in horror as the roof of the cathedral came crashing down to the ground.



have been saved", but the entire wooden structure, the spire and nearly 70pc of the artworks have gone forever. More than 400 firefighters fought for 12 hours to bring the blaze under control.

SAFE: Rose windows

Among the most famous architectural features of

the Gothic masterpiece, the stained-glass rose windows are treasured artworks. The three rose windows, which date back to the 13th century, adorn the north, south and west facades. There were hopes the windows had escaped being destroyed by the fire after firefighters stopped its spread. Photos

questioned but 'nothing indicates deliberate act'

cedures," said Julien Le Bras, head of the family firm.

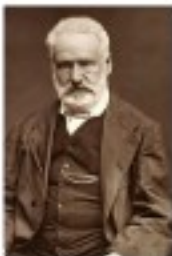
Another firm, Europe Echaufaudage, erected 250 tons of scaffolding and installed a lift. "Detectives have been talking to some of the restoration staff to see if they can help with pinpointing the exact location where the fire started, probably in the roof," a source close to the investigation said. "They're also looking at what equipment was being used, especially power sources and

lighting that may have contributed to starting a fire."

Mr Le Bras was full of pride when he gave an interview in 2017 about his firm being chosen to restore Notre-Dame. "No one has touched it in 150 years, it's really quite something to say we will be the ones getting involved. We won't be offering a guarantee of 10 years, but 150 years," he said.

When a French reporter called Mr Le Bras on the night of the fire to ask what was hap-

Victor Hugo: author called for restoration work on the cathedral



pening, he said in a panicked voice, "I don't know, I don't know," before hanging up.

Bernard Fonquernie, an architect who worked on Notre-Dame from 1978 to 1990, said: "The inquiry will show what happened.

"A building like this has the makings of a disaster. You could never build a cathedral like this today – the rules have completely changed.

"In the years I worked here, we never had an accident

because we followed the rules so tightly."

Experts said bureaucracy and politics had delayed the much-needed restoration of Europe's most-visited monument, parts of which had been left in a state of disrepair.

Until last year, no major restoration had been carried out since the mid-19th century, after Victor Hugo called attention to the need to repair damage inflicted during the French Revolution.

Taoiseach backs fire audit plans for historic buildings

John Downing and Allison Bray

THE devastating fire at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris means the Government will consider a major review of fire precautions at Irish historic buildings, the Taoiseach has said.

Leo Varadkar said such a review "could be a good idea" and he would consult the housing and heritage ministers about such a move.

The Taoiseach was replying to Labour leader Brendan Howlin who raised the issue yesterday. Mr Varadkar said a fire precautions review had taken place on apartment blocks following the Grenfell Tower fire tragedy in London last summer. Asked whether there are any plans afoot for an audit at such heritage buildings as Dublin Castle, Christ Church Cathedral or St Patrick's Cathedral, he said it could ensure they are equipped with the latest fire protection systems.

Mr Howlin said the Notre-Dame fire "should be a



Taoiseach Leo Varadkar: In favour of fire precaution review:

wake-up call" for Ireland's heritage property managers and suggested a fund for both private and public sectors to "ensure we take preventive measures in advance".

Meanwhile, Notre-Dame Cathedral will be resurrected despite the devastating fire that gutted the 850-year-old landmark, according to an Irish priest living in Paris. Fr Aidan Troy said despite the heartbreaking fire that destroyed the landmark's iconic 19th century spire and left much of the world-famous church in ruins, all is not lost.

Speaking on RTE's 'Six One News' last night, the parish priest at Paris's St Joseph's Church said he expects a massive turnout at Saint-Sulpice Church in Paris as part of Holy Week celebrations in solidarity for the beloved cathedral, which he termed "a great friend".

"It's almost like Notre-Dame will also rise with Christ this Easter," he predicted.

The 17th century Left Bank landmark was also damaged when fire broke out there briefly on St Patrick's Day. But Fr Troy – who made headlines around the world during the Holy Cross school protests by loyalists in 2001 – said it could have been much worse.



Editorial Comment

Notre-Dame reminds us hope can rise from ashes
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More funds for Fair Deal or hospital overcrowding will worsen – warning

Eilish O'Regan, Claire Fox and John Downing

BUDGETING for the Fair Deal scheme this year made provision for just a marginal increase in numbers, the industry's representative body has warned.

Nursing Homes Ireland said the HSE Service Plan for 2019 projected an increase of 91 people over the course of 12 months in the Fair Deal.

But the funding of nearly €1bn for the nursing home scheme is already under pressure as nearly 200 more residents required financial support.

The HSE confirmed its target in 2019 was to support 23,042 people availing of Fair Deal and by February the numbers had risen to 23,228.

It comes as farmers demonstrated outside the Department of Health in Dublin, criticising the Government delay in changing the scheme to cap contributions based on working farm assets at three years.

And inside the Dáil, the Government faced questions over the administration of the scheme.

Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin told Taoiseach Leo Varadkar he knew one case where funding was approved for an elderly person but six

weeks later the money still had not materialised.

"It suggests, Taoiseach, that the allocation has already been used up," he said.

But the Taoiseach replied that this was not the case: "I can assure you it has not been all used up."

However, Tadhg Daly of Nursing Homes Ireland called on the Government to move quickly to a decision to increase funds for Fair Deal. "Otherwise it will create massive waiting times for Fair

Deal which will knock on to hospitals that will not be able to cope with overcrowding," he warned.

The HSE said: "The Fair Deal approval process, once the application form has been fully completed, is currently being maintained at approximately four to five weeks. There is only one waiting list so there are no variances across the country."



'Massive waiting times': Tadhg Daly of Nursing Homes Ireland

Meanwhile, protesting farmers called on Minister for Older People Jim Daly to commit to the promise made last July.

It is unclear when the legislation will pass but it hope is it will move through the Oireachtas this year.

Responding to farmer demands, he said he was committed to treat farm and small business assets equally and said it is his intention to bring heads of a Bill to Government next month.

The policy change, to cap contributions based on farm and business assets at three years where a family successor commits to working the productive asset, has been approved by Government."

It is unclear when the legislation will pass but it hope is it will move through the Oireachtas this year.

It has more to do with elderly people resident in these homes living longer. The number of people availing of the scheme has consistently been around 23,000. But this year 23,228 were being supported in

nursing homes by the end of February, which was around 180 more people than budgeted for by the HSE.

The most recent analysis from Nursing Homes Ireland found that new applicants for the scheme had been



CervicalCheck cost to soar as tribunal

Eilish O'Regan
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE final compensation bill for the CervicalCheck controversy could potentially spiral after it emerged yesterday that another 1,776 women whose slides are currently being reviewed are to be included if they want to take a case.

Health Minister Simon Harris announced that the Cabinet gave the go-ahead yesterday to the heads of the bill to set up a tribunal of

compensation where women who developed cervical cancer after getting an incorrect result can bring an action for damages.

It was originally believed this tribunal would be confined to the group of 221 women caught up in last year's controversy.

However, Mr Harris said it will also be open to any of the 1,776 women who developed cervical cancer whose smear tests are currently being examined in an independent

review by the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

This independent review started earlier this year and will report in the summer.

Women will be told if the smear test result was "discordant" with that found by the review team but it will not say if there was negligence involved.

A woman from this group who is found to have a wrong test result would be entitled to make a claim to the tribunal.

However, in all cases the

As the nation ages and we all live for longer, this scheme will have to

Eilish O'Regan

HEALTH CORRESPONDENT



THE pressure on the Fair Deal scheme, which provides financial support for nursing home care, is not because of a huge surge in older people applying for the subsidy.

It has more to do with elderly people resident in these homes living longer.

The number of people availing of the scheme has consistently been around 23,000. But this year 23,228 were being supported in

nursing homes by the end of February, which was around 180 more people than budgeted for by the HSE.

The most recent analysis from Nursing Homes Ireland found that new applicants for the scheme had been

dropping over time.

Around 194 fewer residents had their nursing home fees supported by the Fair Deal scheme at the end of June 2018 compared to December 2013.

Over 18 months to June 2018

there was a fall of 329 in the numbers availing of Fair Deal.

More older people seem to be staying at home for longer, either through family support, a HSE home care service or increasingly privately paid-for home care.

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Taking a stand: The IFA stages a Fair Deal protest at the Department of Health in Baginbun Street, Dublin

open to more women

women will have to prove negligence in order to secure compensation.

The tribunal will be heard in private and is seen as an alternative to going to the High Court.

But women will still be able to go to court if that is the route they want to take.

Mr Harris said that as well as the proposed tribunal, work is advanced on an ex-gratia scheme for women affected by the non-disclosure of the CervicalCheck audit and this

will be open for applications shortly.

This is to provide a payment to the 221 group for the failure to disclose to them a Cervical-Check audit showing they had received a wrong smear test result.

Women or bereaved families are to be written to shortly and invited to apply for the ex-gratia payment, which will be based on various criteria.

It is expected to take into account the impact the non-disclosure had on them.

evolve accordingly

However, we know the population is ageing and the number of people aged 65 and over will grow from one-fifth of the working population to more than one-third over the next 20 years.

So however good the promised new home care scheme from the Government is in the coming years, demand for nursing homes will rise.

It may be the case that the terms of the scheme have to be revisited to ask people to pay more.

This clearly needs to be done in a way that should put little stress or hardship on the nursing home resident.

As it is, many are having to pay top-up charges out of their own pockets in private nursing homes to cover "extras" not covered by the

Fair Deal, such as social activities. One area that could be looked at – which would also have benefits in helping to alleviate the housing crisis – is making it more attractive for older people in a nursing home to sell the family home while alive.

Currently, many of these homes lie empty because if sold the house is a liquid asset, liable to the 7.5pc levy every year with no cap.

If the same house is sold now after a person's death, the 7.5pc is capped at three years.

Applying the same cap to the house sale proceeds during the resident's lifetime would be advantageous for the State, generating funding early rather than waiting for lengthy probate.

The resident could also benefit from the proceeds.

A rasher a day 'increases risk of bowel cancer'

Eilish O'Regan
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

EATING one rasher or a slice of ham a day increases the risk of bowel cancer, a new study shows.

People who enjoy a daily slice of beef or a lamb chop for their dinner also increase their chances of getting the disease, which affects 2,227 patients in Ireland annually.

The latest findings, published in 'International Journal of Epidemiology' today, confirm previous studies that

even moderate amounts of ham, bacon and red meat are linked to bowel cancer.

Commenting on the findings Ivan Perry, professor of public health in University College Cork, said there is growing evidence that people should have a diet that is more plant-based for their own health and the good of the planet.

thored the study and is deputy director at the University of Oxford's cancer epidemiology unit, said: "Our results strongly suggest that people who eat red and processed

meat four or more times a week have a higher risk of developing bowel cancer than those who eat red and processed meat less than twice a week."

The World Cancer Research Fund previously found there is strong evidence that eating processed meat – such as salami, bacon and ham – is a cause of bowel cancer.

Eating a lot of red meat – like beef, lamb or pork – also increases the risk, it revealed.

In the new study, some 475,581 people aged 40 to 69

were followed for an average of 5.7 years. During this time, 2,609 people developed bowel cancer.

The study found that people consuming an average of 76g per day of red and processed meat had a 20pc higher risk of bowel cancer compared with those who ate 21g per day.

For red meat only, the risk was 15pc higher for people who ate 54g per day (about one thick slice of roast beef or one lamb chop) on average compared with those who had 8g per day.

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Quirke's 'macabre' Google searches not evidence of murder, jury is told

Shane Phelan



THE jury in the Tipperary 'love rival' murder trial has been told it cannot convict someone on the basis of online computer searches.

Bernard Condon SC, for the accused Patrick Quirke, said there was "no hard evidence" his client murdered Bobby Ryan, a part-time DJ also known as Mr Moonlight.

Mr Condon asked the jury to apply "fairness" when considering Google searches which were conducted on Mr Quirke's computer for "DNA" and "human body decomposition timeline".

The searches took place months before Mr Ryan's body

was found in an underground tank at a farm in Co Tipperary in April 2013.

On the third and final day of his closing statement at the Central Criminal Court, Mr Condon told the jury of six men and six women they should be aware of the "substantial limitations" of the computer evidence.

He said they could not say the searches were linked to the murder case.

'People do the strangest things on their computers'

The barrister also said there was "a great risk of an enormous leap being made" by the jury, when the height of the prosecution's case was that the searches were suspicious.

Mr Condon said there was

nothing in the searches about bodies decomposing in water or an airtight container.

He asked the jury what weight they could put on the searches and said that while they may have been "macabre", people do the strangest things on their computers. This was just a fact of life, he said.

If Mr Quirke was the killer and wanted to know what condition the body was in, he could have lifted the lid on the tank to look, Mr Condon said.

The defence barrister also played down the significance of searches of the RTÉ website for news about Mr Ryan.

"I don't think there was a person in Tipperary who didn't look up Bobby Ryan," he said.

Mr Quirke (50), of Brean-shamore, Co Tipperary, has pleaded not guilty to the murder of his alleged love rival Mr Ryan (52) on a date between June 3, 2011, and April 2013.

The prosecution alleges Mr Quirke killed Mr Ryan so he could rekindle his affair with Mary Lowry, the widow whose farm Mr Quirke was leasing.

She was Mr Ryan's girlfriend at the time of his disappearance. The trial heard Mr Ryan left her house at Fawnagown, Co Tipperary, at 6.30am on the morning of June 3, 2011, and his body was discovered in an underground tank on the farm 22 months later.

Mr Condon finished his eight-hour closing speech yesterday. The court will not sit again until next Tuesday when Ms Justice Eileen Creedon will deliver her charge to the jury before it begins deliberating.

In his closing speech, Mr Condon said a note found in Mr Quirke's house was "of very little relevance" to the case.

The prosecution has suggested the note was written prior to Mr Quirke being questioned by gardaí in April 2013 and some of it was consistent with answers given in the interview. But Mr Condon told the jury it was more likely it was written afterwards.

The note contained questions about Ms Lowry.

"Why wouldn't Mr Quirke be suspicious of Mary Lowry?" Mr Condon asked jurors.

"You might say he is a nosy parker," he said.

But this "was a very long way away from finding he was a killer", said Mr Condon.

He pointed out Mr Quirke told gardaí he was "inquisitive by nature".

Mr Condon said where there were two versions of events possible on the evidence, the jury had to accept the one favourable to the defence.

Earlier, Mr Condon told the jury there was "no hard evidence" against his client and also raised questions about the Garda investigation.



Mr Quirke told gardaí he was 'inquisitive by nature'

The barrister said the jury had been presented with "a forensically barren landscape" and many unanswered questions. He likened the jury's job to that of a scientist. They had "a huge decision" to make and needed to approach things with scepticism and test the theories put forward.

Mr Quirke claims to have found the body when he was going about agitating slurry, but gardaí believed this was a "staged" discovery.

The defence counsel criticised the investigation, saying prosecution counsel Michael Bowman SC had said gardaí could have done better when the body was found as there was a failure to video its removal from the tank.

Mr Condon said there was no search of Ms Lowry's house at the time of the disappearance. The house was only searched

Court arrival: Patrick Quirke and his wife Imelda yesterday
PHOTO: COLLINS COURTS

22 months later after being redecorated.

The barrister said the Garda sub aqua team should have been used to recover Mr Ryan's body and not the fire brigade team that did.

He criticised the failure of gardaí to keep the water from the tank which had been collected in a vacuum tanker.

Mr Condon also pointed out the pathologist who conducted the post-mortem examination, Dr Khalid Jaber, did not go to the scene.

Professor Jack Crane, the former state pathologist for Northern Ireland, who appeared as a prosecution witness, "had difficulty reading Dr Jaber's notes", while Dr Michael Curtis, the acting State Pathologist, said the approach taken on the day was "suboptimal", Mr Condon told the jury.



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COMÓRADH AR ÉIRÍ AMACH NA CÁSCA 1916 DOMHNACH CÁSCA, AN 21 AIBREÁN 2019

Déanfar Éirí Amach na Cáscá 1916 a chomóradh le Searmanas Míleata ag Ard-Oifig an Phoist, Baile Átha Cliath, Dé Domhnaigh an 21 Aibreán 2019 ag tosú ag 12.00 meán lae.

An tUachtarán, an Taoiseach agus an tAire ar a bhfuil Freagracht maidir le Cosaint a bheidh i bhfeighil an tSearmanais ag a ndéanfar paidreacha, a léifear an Forógra agus a leagfaidh an tUachtarán bláthfhleasc. Críochnóidh an Searmanas ag 12.30 in nuair a eitleoidh an tAerchór Iasnaíde.

Tá fáilte roimh an bpobal chuig an Searmanas agus ba chóir do dhaoine a bheidh sa limistéar poiblí amhairc ar Shráid Uí Chonaill ag 11.30 am ar a dhéanaí.

COMMEMORATION TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1916 RISING EASTER SUNDAY, 21 APRIL 2019

The 1916 Easter Rising will be commemorated by a military ceremony at the GPO, Dublin on Sunday 21 April 2019 commencing at 12.00 noon

The ceremony, which will be led by the President, the Taoiseach and the Minister with Responsibility for Defence, will involve prayers of remembrance, a reading of the Proclamation and the laying of a wreath by the President. The Ceremony will conclude at 12.30 pm with a flypast by the Air Corps.

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Irishman is sprayed with date-rape drug and robbed in Tenerife

Amy Molloy

AN IRISHMAN has warned tourists heading to the Spanish island of Tenerife to be vigilant after he was sprayed with a date-rape drug and forced to empty his bank accounts.

David Nelson (27) was on a trip away with friends in March and has shared his "horrible experience" to help raise awareness about a dangerous drug known as 'Devil's Breath'.

Mr Nelson, an engineer from Bray, Co Wicklow, who is currently working in Switzerland, was staying in Adeje and went out for drinks in the Playa de las Americas area on March 23. At the end of the night he lost the group and went to get a taxi back to his apartment when he was approached by a woman.

He claims she tried to seduce him and when he pushed her away, he was "sprayed in the face with a substance".

"I was later informed by police it was the date-rape drug Devil's Breath," he told

the *Irish Independent*.

"I remember very few things after being sprayed. My phone was taken, gold watch, bracelet, €600 from my wallet and I was then taken to an ATM and the girl proceeded to take what money she could from my Irish and Swiss bank accounts until the cards declined. This

'I was taken to an ATM. This drug turns you into a zombie'

drug turns you into a zombie."

The police report described the woman as being between 20 and 30 years old with curly hair.

He said the police told him that tourists are regularly attacked with the drug scopolamine, more commonly known as Devil's Breath.

The substance has been blamed for thousands of crimes in South America and has now become a problem in European countries.

The US Overseas Security Advisory Council has issued many warnings about the drug, which it says can "disorient the victim and cause prolonged unconsciousness and serious medical problems".

The Department of Foreign Affairs says that while it doesn't comment on individual cases, it acknowledged Spanish authorities have warned of date-rape drugs being used.

Meanwhile, a candlelit vigil was held over the weekend for another Irishman who was reported missing in Tenerife in the same week that Mr Nelson was robbed.

Father-of-two Peter Wilson (32) was last seen on the island on March 23.

He travelled there from Dublin Airport on March 22 and was staying in the Malibu Park Hotel. His family and friends have appealed on social media for anyone who may have seen him to get in contact.

He is believed to have been in the Costa Adeje and Playa de las Americas areas.



Staying shut: Drumconrath, Co Meath, publicans Pauline Fay and Dermot Muldoon, whose pubs will be remaining closed. PHOTO: SEAMUS FARRELLY

Good dry day: Village pubs to stick with tradition

PUBS in one village have agreed to stay closed on Good Friday for the second year to mark long-standing tradition.

The three pubs in Drumconrath, Co Meath, will remain shut again this Friday despite legislation that allowed all publicans to legally serve alcohol last year for the first time in 90 years. Local publicans Dermot Muldoon, Pauline Fay and Pat Dempsey will continue the

old tradition and keep a lid on their alcohol.

"Publicans get two days off in the whole year – just two – so we decided to keep that holiday as well as keeping up the tradition and having a bit of respect for our religion," said Mr Muldoon.

"Last year we got a lot of support from our customers – the majority of whom would observe fasting on the day and stay off the drink

anyway."

Mr Muldoon is planning to go to Northern Ireland with his family this weekend. "I might even have a drink up there – it's the novelty factor of having a drink on the other side of the counter on a day you normally couldn't have one," he said.

Ms Fay, of Fay's Bar, added the day enables publicans to completely switch off and spend time with family.

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Unseasonal dip:

Margaret Fitzgibbon, Ann McCourt and Miriam McGovern swim in the Forty Foot at Sandycove, Co Dublin.

PHOTO: DAMIEN EAGERS



Warning over rip tides and cold water ahead of warm weekend

Allison Bray

UNSEASONABLY warm weather forecast for the Easter weekend and a full moon on Good Friday have all the hallmarks of a perfect holiday weekend that could turn deadly, according to Water Safety Ireland (WSI).

With temperatures set to soar to 20C across much of the country on Good Friday and Saturday, the risk of drowning

increases as coastal and inland waterways are still too cold for swimming, WSI warned yesterday. Friday's full moon can also cause dangerous rip tides for all water users.

And despite warm air coming up from Spain later this week, water temperatures are still hovering between a nippy 8C and 10C which increases the risk of drowning due to cold water shock followed by hypothermia, WSI warned.

Heatwaves to be more common – and to cause food shortages

Claire Murphy

LAST summer's heatwave would not have happened without greenhouse gas pollution, and further extreme temperatures will mean food shortages, environmental researchers have warned.

Scientists have identified that if global temperatures keep rising we could experience extreme heatwaves every two out of three years.

But the warmer temperatures are not to be celebrated – ultimately it will lead to food shortages and higher prices for consumers, the researchers have warned.



'Consequences severe': Climate researcher Martha Vogel

The new study from the ETH Zurich Institute for Atmospheric and Climate Science investigated data from 1958 to 2018 and measured the widespread heatwave last year, which affected 17 countries.

On an average day from May to July last year, 22pc of agricultural land and populated areas in the northern hemisphere were simultaneously hit by extremely high temperatures, according to the research presented in Vienna.

Climate researcher Martha Vogel said that the hot summer temperatures last year "could not have occurred without human-induced climate change".

"Without the climate change that can be explained by human activity, we wouldn't have such a large area being simultaneously affected by heat as we did in 2018," Ms

Vogel said. The research further found if global temperatures increase by 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, a quarter of countries in the northern hemisphere will experience a summer as hot as 2018 every two out of three years.

The researchers warned that the rising temperatures will ultimately have a negative impact on agriculture.

"If in future more and more key agricultural regions and densely populated areas are affected by simultaneous heatwaves, this would have severe consequences," said Ms Vogel at the European Geosciences Union press conference.

The researchers investigated model simulations to project how heatwaves could develop by the end of the century.

They identified large-scale heatwaves first appeared in the northern hemisphere in 2010, then in 2012, and again in 2018.

Prior to 2010, however, the researchers did not find any instances of such large areas being affected simultaneously by heat.

Lead researcher Professor Sonia Seneviratne said that if large agricultural areas are affected by a heatwave, this could have a knock-on effect on harvests – which would ultimately drive up food prices for the consumer.

"Ultimately, extreme events affecting large areas of the planet could threaten the food supply elsewhere, even in Switzerland," said Ms Seneviratne.

"If multiple countries are affected by such natural disasters at the same time, they have no way to help one another."

The paper resulting from this study is currently in review for an academic publication.

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Wages hit record high in economic 'sweet spot'

Donal O'Donovan and David Chance

HOUSEHOLD income is at a record high and continuing to grow sharply, underpinned by jobs and investment, according to a new report.

In contrast to the Celtic Tiger, when notional wealth was linked in many cases to debt-funded property assets, rising incomes are underpinned by what are described as "exceptional levels" of business investment and related employment effects, in the new research from employers' group Ibec.

In its latest 'Quarterly Economic Outlook Q1 2019', Ibec says per-person household income is at a record high and growing 6pc annually. That trend has been flattered by low inflation boosting the impact of wage growth.

"Since 2015, Irish households have seen growth of real income, per person, of just over 11pc cumulatively. UK households on the other hand saw their incomes fall by 1.2pc over the same period," the Ibec report said.

However, it said the pace of growth will not last indefinitely as the global economy shows signs of slowing.

A no-deal Brexit would also be expected to have a significant impact including cancelled investment, falling consumer confidence, rising prices, and trade disruption.

For now, however, disposable income per person is now back above pre-crash levels for the first time, according to Ibec, driven by the drop in unemployment levels and labour market participation of 83.5pc for prime-age workers (25-54 years), which has never been higher.

Those figures may be the reason consumer spending held up last year despite a drop in consumer sentiment linked to fears over the risks of a no-deal Brexit in particular.

"The Irish economy is in a sweet spot, with growth in employment and wages both hitting close to 3pc in 2018," the report said.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe claimed spending has been brought under control and promised there will not be a repeat of last year's €600m Department of Health spending overrun.

Mr Donohoe published a Stability Programme Update 2019 yesterday, effectively kick-starting the Budget 2020 process.

He said he will deliver a budget surplus both this year and in 2020 helped by strong corporation tax receipts already forecast to come in €500m above expectations this year.

"We are aiming to deliver a significant improvement in performance on health expenditure for this year," Minister Donohoe said on Tuesday.

Spending

The first quarter exchequer receipts showed net Government spending of €12bn was up 7.2pc on the year but 2.6pc below plan.

"But given the experience that I had last year, I am not at all being complacent this year," Mr Donohoe said.

The number of people working for the Government last year hit almost 400,000, driving a surge in the public wages bill to €22.2bn.

Pressures on the budget are growing, from overruns on the new children's hospital to expensive drugs and the now rising cost of paying for the Fair Deal for nursing home care schemes.

However, surging corporation tax receipts enabled the Government to eke out a modest budget surplus last year and are already running ahead of budgeted spending increases, creating extra wriggle room this year and for Budget 2020.

Brexit countdown

Yes, Ms Pelosi is definitely 'playing politics' – but it is still a benefit to us

John Downing



NANCY PELOSI is an Italian American with a formidable political track record.

As the third most powerful politician in the United States, she certainly packs a punch when she speaks. And her blunt message to President Donald Trump and the UK Brexiteers has a very encouraging ring for the Irish Government and people.

Speaking in Dublin, she warned Mr Trump and the Brexiteers not to even think about a US-UK trade deal if there is any threat of a Border in Ireland. It was notable that there was no caveat to dilute the strength of her message – this one came straight from the shoulder.

It can serve as another reminder that Ireland still packs a punch in the USA – but let's not get the head staggers here.

True, the speaker in the US House of Representatives said a trade agreement that damages peace in Ireland "just can't possibly happen". She was addressing a small gathering at the Department of Foreign Affairs' splendid headquarters, Iveagh House.

The attendees were seated at six tables, named for counties to which key people were linked. Thus, Ms Pelosi was at the 'Cork table' along with

Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney, while European Affairs Minister Helen McEntee was the lead at the 'Meath table'. Ireland's redoubtable ambassador in Washington, Dan Mulhall, headed the table from his native Waterford.

So much for the protocol – but let's stay with the US speaker's core message. Ms Pelosi said the 1998 Good Friday Agreement is "not just a peace agreement" – but something that resolved hundreds of years of conflict.

She rightly said America, including president Bill Clinton and former senator George Mitchell, had worked hard to ensure people on this island could live in harmony.

"This isn't for us an issue or an agreement. It's a value," she said.

Ms Pelosi went on to say that while speaking with UK politicians in recent days she made clear the position of the Democratic Party. She said the UK people had voted to leave the EU and politicians must facilitate that.

But she added: "And as they work that out, not to think for one minute that there's any comfort for them, that if they leave the EU they will quickly have a US-UK trade agreement. That's just not on the cards if there is any harm done to the Good Friday accords. Don't even think about it."

Ms Pelosi said US politicians were not taking sides: "We're just holding to our values. It's an ideal that is a model for the world. Other places copy it so that they can make peace and



You could argue that the reasons for her words reinforce validity of her message

find common ground."

Mr Coveney told the same gathering Ireland respects British voters' decision to leave and does not want to make life difficult for them.

"We want our nearest neighbours to thrive and to prosper," the Tánaiste said diplomatically, adding though that the UK has no right to determine Ireland's future.

There is no denying the volume of US political and financial investment in establishing and sustaining peace

BREXIT

Nothing to be gained from upheaval in UK – Juncker

Kevin Doyle

THE European Union has "nothing to gain" from seeing great disruption in the UK as a result of Brexit, EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has said.

He said the EU has adopted the necessary contingency measures to deal with a no-deal Brexit but that such a scenario would suit nobody.

As Brexit slipped down the agenda in Brussels and Strasbourg, EU Council

President Donald Tusk told MEPs the UK would continue to be represented in the European Parliament for "several months – maybe longer".

He disagreed with one of the bloc's premiers who had said the EU should abandon hope of the UK reversing its decision to leave.

"During the European Council one of the leaders warned us not to be dreamers, and that we shouldn't think that Brexit

'I will not stop dreaming about a better and united Europe'

could be reversed," he said.

"I would like to say, at this rather difficult moment in our history, we need dreamers and dreams.

"We cannot give in to fatalism. At least I will not stop dreaming about a better and united Europe."

However, the European Parliament chief Brexit co-ordinator Guy Verhofstadt expressed his fear that Brexit will "poison" the European elections which take place next month.

'Not complacent':
Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe



Comment

Our economy must be built to stay strong when inevitable external shocks hit home
Paschal Donohoe
28



Mother and baby home survivors forced to wait for detailed report

Cormac McQuinn
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SURVIVORS of mother and baby homes have expressed frustration that a report that includes powerful testimony of harrowing experiences in the institutions won't be published in full until next year.

The recommendations of the Collaborative Forum of former residents have been released including calls for health supports for survivors and a national monument.

But on legal advice to the Government, the full report won't be published until a delayed Commission of Investigation concludes its work in February 2020.

This delay was described as a "matter of genuine regret" in a foreword to the recommendations signed by Forum members Susan Lohan, Conrad Bryan and Samantha Long. They said their "deepest wish" is for the report to be published at the earliest opportunity.

Mr Bryan said in the absence of this he wanted to outline the impact the institutions had on the health of survivors.

He told of one woman who had been raped, became pregnant, ended up in one of the institutions and had a difficult birth. As the now-elderly woman put it she was left "a completely broken person" with long-term health impacts including stress and numerous operations.

Mr Bryan also outlined the experience of a child – also now elderly – who lived in a similar 'county home'.

There was a mortuary and the individual has flashbacks of seeing dead bodies.

They also remember being put to work on a farm at the age of six or seven and have



Minister Katherine Zappone

ongoing health issues they attribute to their time in the institution.

Terri Harrison, a member of the Forum, whose child was given up for adoption against her will, said survivors like her endure a "living bereavement".

"When our children were taken from us, we had to learn to live with that and that's what we do to this day," she said.

Children's Minister Katherine Zappone said the Government will develop proposals for a package of health and well-being supports for survivors. A working group is to report by September in time for measures to be included in Budget 2020.

She said she is proposing to amend key provisions of the Adoption (Information and Tracing) Bill to take account of issues raised by the Forum. She is also developing a memorial programme which will include a scheme for funding.

Forum recommendations included bringing in a module on mother and child institutions in the schools' history curriculum as well as the creation of a national monument. One location suggested for this is the Phoenix Park.

in Northern Ireland. And the bulk of that came from Ms Pelosi's Democratic Party colleagues, Mr Clinton and the heaven-sent envoy, senator George Mitchell, without whom the deal very probably would not have happened.

But we must also recognise that it is Ms Pelosi's job to oppose the current US president, using her party's majority position in the House of Representatives to do this. Brexit is as good a point of differentiation as any other.

'Values': US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Congressman Richard Neal at a reception hosted by Tanaiste Simon Coveney in Iveagh House, Dublin. PHOTO: GERRY MOONEY

Neither is there much dividend for her in offering any succour to ardent Brexiteers in the UK.

The impact of how her words play here, and are relayed to Irish-Americans is of far greater interest.

So yes, she is definitely "playing politics" here. But then again, that is what politicians are wont to do – and we should not be too harsh about that.

Just because this message suits Ms Pelosi's other political work does not undermine

its value. In fact, you could argue that the more pragmatic reasons for her words further reinforce the validity of her message.

Much is rightly made of Ireland's political reach on display around each St Patrick's Day in Washington. The access is unprecedented for such a small nation and much is due to the loyalty of Irish-Americans, who have selflessly supported their ancestral land down the years. So, there is benefit for Ireland.



Business
Retailers call for a super tax on premium-hiking insurers
30

TECHNOLOGY

Varadkar looks at 'plans B, C and D' as rural broadband cost rockets

Cormac McQuinn and John Downing

THE Government is looking at other options for the roll-out of rural broadband as the estimated costs have soared to as much as €3bn over 25 years.

It comes amid mounting Opposition pressure and concern in government that the National Broadband Plan (NBP) will be seen as having runaway costs like the

National Children's Hospital. A decision on the future of the NBP had been expected this week but it has been delayed until after Easter.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar told the Dáil more time is needed. He said: "We want to do this and we want to do it right. And before we bring a decision to Cabinet, we want to ensure there is no better alternative."

Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald was scathing

of the Government's management of the roll-out and said the delays had gone on too long. "We are now faced perhaps again with a scandalous cost over-run that might be commensurate with the debacle around the National Children's Hospital," she said, adding the original estimated cost for the plan was €500m.

Responding to Ms McDonald, Mr Varadkar said: "You asked about

plans B, C and D. We are examining all of those because we want to be convinced that the business case, costs and everything else are deliverable, that it is done in accordance with the public spending code."

Mr Varadkar rejected her criticisms and argued she "neglected to mention" that the €500m estimate had been for a "very different project". He said the original estimate was based on

bringing fibre to 11,000 towns and villages; this wasn't the same as bringing it to 540,000 homes, farms and businesses.

Mr Varadkar also acknowledged estimates that the NBP could cost as much as €3bn over 25 years saying it is a "huge project of huge scale".

The NBP has been beset with delays and difficulties, including two bidders dropping out.

National Broadband Ireland, a consortium led by US businessman David McCourt, is the only remaining bidder for the project. Communications minister Richard Bruton has said "due diligence" on the NBP is close to completion.

The *Irish Independent* understands there is a possibility the future of the NBP could be considered at a special Cabinet meeting in Cork next month.



On parade: Far left, Maria Walsh. Left, Irish Naval Seamen. PHOTOS: STEVE HUMPHREYS

'The more women in reserve army, the better' – ex-Rose Maria

Allison Bray

FORMER Rose of Tralee Maria Walsh is a real trooper – literally.

The events and media consultant from Co Mayo made history as the first-ever member of the LGBT community to be crowned Rose of Tralee in 2014.

Not only that, she is

understood to be the first Rose in the history of the Defence Forces to swap her tiara for a rifle as a member of the Armoured Cavalry Squadron based at the Curragh, in Co Kildare.

She is also among 236 women who are currently members of the Reserve Defence Forces (RDF).

But after proudly

taking part in her first formal military parade at Dublin's Collins Barracks yesterday, marking the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the volunteer force, the Fine Gael MEP candidate hopes to encourage more women and minorities to follow in her boot steps: "The month of April is recruit month,

so we're really just trying to make it as diverse as possible. The more women in it, the better diversity."

But it's not just women and minorities that the Defence Forces is hoping to recruit as part of a new campaign launched at the ceremony by Defence Minister Paul Kehoe.

He is urging employers to

consider members of the RDF as potential employees.

A new handbook launched at the ceremony highlights the benefits to employers of having members of the RDF work for them, including the unique skills reservists acquire during their military service and training that Mr Kehoe said can be invaluable to the workforce.

Buyers turn to 'bank of mum and dad' for help

Charlie Weston

PERSONAL FINANCE EDITOR

HALF of those expecting to buy their first home say they will need help from their parents.

The financial pressure on prospective first-time buyers is also evident from survey findings that show it is now taking longer to save a home deposit.

More than half of those who hope to be buyers have been saving for two years, according to a survey.

This is up from 40pc of potential buyers who reported a year earlier that they were saving for two years.

The cost of property and a lack of supply are the main challenges for prospective first-time buyers, research commissioned by Bank of Ireland has found.

Half of those surveyed said the cost of property was the biggest challenge facing them.

More than half of first-time buyers surveyed said they will need help from family to secure their mortgage.

Some 51pc of those surveyed are likely to receive a financial gift towards a deposit, and a third are planning to move in with their parents to increase the amount they can save, although the high cost of property is making saving more difficult.

Unaware

The research found over three-quarters of first-time buyers have a deposit savings plan in place.

But the length of time it takes to save is increasing, with 51pc saving for two years or more, up 10pc since 2017.

For the vast majority, a house is the preferred choice rather than an apartment.

The survey was conducted by Red C among prospective first-time buyers aged 25 to 45.

The amount of money first-time buyers save each month increased over the past year from an average of €461 in 2018 to €538 a month this year.

More than half of first-time buyers said they were unaware of the Government help-to-buy incentive, despite the potential of the scheme to save them up to €20,000. This lack of awareness comes despite 44pc of first-time buyers looking to build or buy a new home.

Head of mortgages at Bank of Ireland Brian Vaughan said: "Buying your first home is a challenging process and the survey makes it clear most have a deposit savings plan in place, with the average amount being saved increasing year on year."

He said it was concerning that many were unaware of the Government incentives that could save them thousands.

'Popular, cheerful' rower (21) killed in collision with truck

Ian Begley

TRIBUTES have poured in for a young sportsman who died in a fatal road collision.

Jake Anderson (21), from Clerihan, a village near Clonmel, Co Tipperary, died when his car collided with a truck on the N24 at Ballingarrane at about 8pm on Monday.

He was pronounced dead at the scene, while the driver of the truck escaped without injury.

Mr Anderson was the sole occupant of the car.

Described as a "popular and cheerful" young man, he was an avid rower with Clonmel Rowing Club.

A spokesperson for the club told the *Irish Independent* that his death has come as a terrible shock to the entire community.

"Jake first joined the club at 14 and was always so supportive and positive, especially to the younger rowers.

"He was a fantastic club member and just a lovely, popular and cheerful young man who came from a wonderful family," the spokesperson said.

"We're all devastated to hear what happened and our



Jake Anderson, who died on Monday, was a keen rower

thoughts and prayers are with his family."

Mr Anderson went to school in Clonmel and worked as an apprentice pipe-fitter.

It's understood that a family liaison officer has been working with the victim's family, who are well known in the local area.

Mayor of Clonmel Richie Molloy also expressed his condolences.

"The town is very shocked to hear that someone so young has died," he told the *Irish Independent*.

"The stretch of road where it happened is fairly wide, but the weather in Clonmel was atrocious on Monday night.

"My condolences and prayers

are with his family during this very sad time," he said.

Friends and loved ones of Mr Anderson also took to social media to express their grief.

Funeral details are yet to be announced.

The road at the scene was closed for a number of hours yesterday to facilitate an examination of the area by Garda forensic collision investigators.

Cause

Gardaí are trying to establish the exact cause of the fatal accident.

The victim was travelling in the direction of Clonmel at the time and the truck was heading towards Cahir.

Tipperary saw a total of 11 road-related fatalities in 2018, according to Garda figures.

And in January of this year, 19-year-old Laura Quinn from Kilshane, Co Tipperary, died after her car struck a tree.

Anyone with information relating to this week's tragedy is asked to contact Clonmel garda station on 052 6177640.

Gardaí are also appealing for anyone who has dashcam footage of the crash to come forward.

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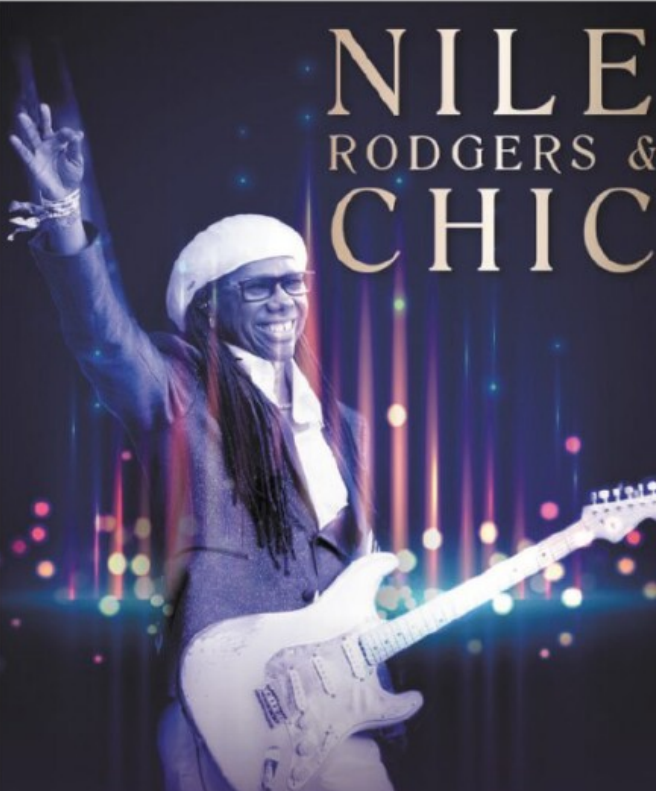
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'No rankings game' in UCD global search for 500 staff

Katherine Donnelly
EDUCATION EDITOR

A NOVEL international recruitment drive by UCD to employ 500 more academic staff is well under way as part of an ambitious five-year development plan at Ireland's largest university.

There has been huge interest for the first 65 positions, which the university hopes to fill by September.

The move to boost academic staff numbers by 500 – a 42pc increase on existing levels – comes hand-in-hand with



Recruitment drive: UCD President Andrew Deeks

preparations for a multi-million-euro building programme at Belfield.

After years of Government cuts, which are blamed for a slide down the international rankings by Irish universities, it represents a determined effort by UCD to strengthen its position globally.

UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks said it was "not playing the rankings game; we are concentrating on delivering the best experience to Irish students and

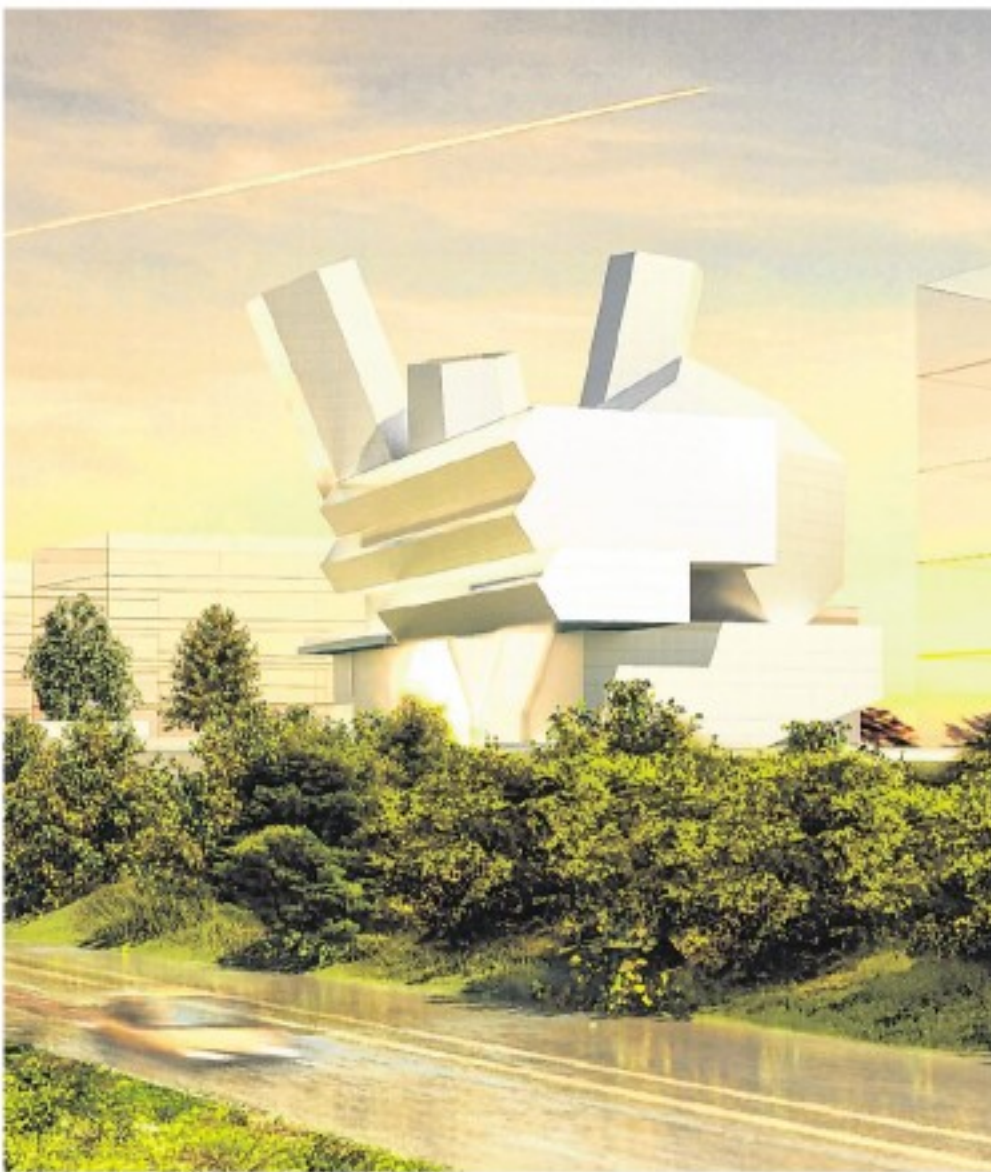
international students, and have research of a quality and quantity comparable to peer universities around the world. "If the systems are sound the rankings should take care of themselves."

UCD unveiled a blueprint for its 'future campus' last year, and Prof Deeks told the *Irish Independent* it had now applied to the newly established Higher Education Strategic Infrastructure Fund to support the project.

Two key buildings targeted for completion within five years are a landmark €48m Centre for Creative Design, at UCD's N11 entrance, and a Centre for Future Learning. The university is also developing more student accommodation.

UCD recently advertised the first 65 new assistant professor/lecturer positions, known as Ad Astra Fellows, and to date it has received 483 applications, with more expected before next week's deadline.

The adverts sparked considerable interest in the US, UK and elsewhere around the globe, although how that is translating into applications is not yet known. Prof Deeks said it was "a good time to be going to the market for academics, particularly junior academics, given Brexit and the geopolitical situation in



the world generally; Ireland is a very attractive place".

The combination of austerity-era cuts, which hit staffing levels badly, and rising enrolments has left Government funding per student at half what it was in 2008.

Higher education student numbers are expected to continue rising. UCD is preparing for an added intake of about 6,600 students – half domestic and half international – over the next decade.

A campaign by the seven universities for a reversal of cuts as well as a sustainable funding model for higher education has not yielded results, for the moment at least.

At UCD, the academic staff-student ratio has fallen to 21:1 and, through the new ini-

Future vision:

An artist's impression of the of the Centre for Creative Design at the proposed new development at UCD, close to the underpass on the N11

tiative, it is seeking to restore it to 16:1, the international average for research-intensive universities. In face of the continuing strict limit on the number of posts the Exchequer will fund, UCD will self-finance the new positions.

Prof Deeks said it was "looking to be more entrepreneurial" and as well as internal savings and revenue from international students, funding would come from a new English Language Academy, expected to be fully up and running next year.

UCD has not pre-determined what posts will be filled by the Ad Astra Fellows and appointments will be made on the basis of matching track record and potential with its teaching and research priorities.

Gun attack on home of criminal with Kinahan links

Robin Schiller

DETECTIVES are investigating a gun attack last night at the home of a Dublin criminal with links to the Kinahan gang.

Shortly after 10.30pm the property in Finglas south was targeted, but no injuries were reported.

A number of shots were fired through a window of the home in the Deanstown area before the gunman fled the scene.

Local gardai and members of the Armed Support Unit (ASU) rushed to the scene and an investigation is now underway by detectives based in Finglas.

The target of last night's shooting is believed to be a Kinahan-linked criminal known locally as 'Mr Flashy', aged in his mid 20s.

However, the gun attack is not believed to be linked to the ongoing Hutch/Kinahan feud.

The suspected drug dealer and his associates are currently involved in a number of feuds in the west Dublin area.

This includes a dispute with other criminals from the Finglas area, as well as providing support to one of the gangs involved in the Corduff feud.

Last night's incident follows a similar shooting at the home of a close associate of 'Mr Flashy' on Saturday night.

Shots were fired through the front door and window of the home on Cappagh Drive while a number of people were inside.

No injuries were reported and investigations into that incident are ongoing to establish a motive for the gun attack.



News

Villagers 'under siege' after 15th cash machine theft
23

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Works of art: Youngsters draw on talent for Texaco prize

Luke Byrne

YOUNG artists are painting a bright picture of the future of Irish talent in the industry.

Hundreds entered this year's Texaco Children's Art Competition, the 65th year of the event. Among the winners was Lea Moloney (13), a pupil at St Joseph of Cluny, Killiney, for her work entitled 'My Ouma'. In the nine to 11-year-old category, Amihan Navarro (10), a pupil at Guardian Angels National School, Blackrock, picked up the top prize for her work, 'Little Me'.

Naoise Hennessy (16), from Craanford, near Gorey, Co Wexford, was the overall winner, taking first prize in the senior 16-18 age category.

Her winning entry, 'Lifelines', was described by competition adjudicators as "a finely detailed study that so perfectly captures the features and character of the subject" and is a portrait of an elderly lady "delicately reproduced" using watercolour pencils.

The awards ceremony took place yesterday at the Morrison Hotel in Dublin.



Inspiration:

Main, Naoise Hennessy (16). Below left, Fallon Murphy (6), second in the six years and younger category. Right, Alfie Whyte (8), first in the seven to eight year category.

PHOTOS:
MAC INNES
PHOTOGRAPHY

Women's World Cup games to be shown live

Claire Murphy

EVERY game in the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup will be broadcast live to Irish audiences thanks to a TG4 and RTÉ team-up.

The two stations announced that they have reached agreement to provide coverage, beginning on June 7 with the opening ceremony and the Group A meeting of hosts France and Korea.

RTÉ and TG4 will share coverage, with all games free-to-air. RTÉ2 and RTÉ Player will broadcast 23 matches, including three quarter-finals, one semi-final and the final on Sunday July 7.

TG4 will show 29 matches including the opening match, one quarter-final, one semi-final, the match for third place and highlights of the final.

Rónán Ó Coisdealbha, Head of Sport TG4, said: "TG4 has been a proactive supporter of women's sport for many years."

Declan McBennett, RTÉ's Group Head of Sport, said it was fitting to make the announcement six months on from the launch of the 20x20 initiative to create a cultural shift in our perception of girls and women in sport.

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COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND

Notice of the Confirmation by An Bord Pleanála of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Compulsory Purchase (Blackglenn Road Improvement Scheme) Order, 2018

An Bord Pleanála has, on the 13th February 2019, made a Confirmation Order confirming the above-named Compulsory Purchase Order as respects the land described in the Schedule hereto. The said Order, as so confirmed, authorises Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily for the purposes of Section 76 of the Housing Act, 1966 as extended by Section 10 of the Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960 as substituted by Section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966 and as further amended by Section 6 and the Second Schedule to the Roads Act, 1993 and Part XIV of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. The Order, as so confirmed, will become operative at the expiration of three weeks from the date of publication of this Notice.

The Order also authorises Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to acquire a section of a private right of way as described in the Third Schedule of the above named Compulsory Purchase Order.

A copy of the Order, as so confirmed, and of the maps referred to in it may be seen at the offices of:

- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Property Management Section, Level 3, Infrastructure and Climate Change Department, County Hall, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, between the hours of 9.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 2.15 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. on Monday to Thursday and 9.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 2.15 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. on Friday.
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council offices at Dundrum Office Park, Main Street, Dundrum, Dublin 14, between the hours of 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. - Monday to Friday.

If an application for Judicial Review of the decision of the Board under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986) as amended by the Rules of the Superior Courts (Judicial Review) 2011 (S.I. 691 of 2011) is duly made to the High Court within eight weeks of the date of publication of this Notice in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as substituted by Section 13 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act, 2006, the Court –

- May by interim Order, suspend the operation of the Compulsory Purchase Order, as so confirmed, either generally or in so far only as it affects any property of the applicant until the final determination of the proceedings.
- If satisfied upon the hearing of the application that the Compulsory Purchase Order, as so confirmed, is not within the powers of the Housing Act, 1966, as extended by Section 10 of the Local Government (No.2) Act, 1960 (as substituted by Section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966) or that the interests of the applicant have been substantially prejudiced by any requirement of the Housing Act, 1966 as so extended and amended, not having been complied with, may quash the Order as so confirmed either generally or in so far only as it affects any property of the applicant.

SCHEDULE

PART I

The permanent acquisition of the plots of land as more particularly shown online in red and coloured grey on Deposit Map Drawing No. DP0001 and Deposit Map Drawing No. DP0002 as described in Part I of the Schedule to the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Compulsory Purchase (Blackglenn Road Improvement Scheme) Order, 2018, located:

- on both sides of Blackglenn Road from Lamb's Cross to the junction with Ticknock Road (adjacent to the M50 overbridge);
- on both sides of the section of Enniskerry Road from Lamb's Cross to Slate Cabin Lane including a 30 metre section of land on the south side of Slate Cabin Lane;
- on both sides of the section of Sandyford Road (approximately 220 metres in length) from Lamb's Cross to Lambs Brook;
- on both sides of the section of Hillcrest Road (approximately 90 metres in length) from Lamb's Cross to the existing bridge/culvert to the east of the entrance to Hillcrest Downs;
- at or near the junction of Harold's Grange Road/College Road/Grange Road/Kellystown Road, including lands on the eastern side of Grange Road (approximately 70 metres in length).

The lands to be acquired are located in the Townlands of Taylorsgrange, Kingstown, Balally and Woodside in the Administrative County of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

PART II

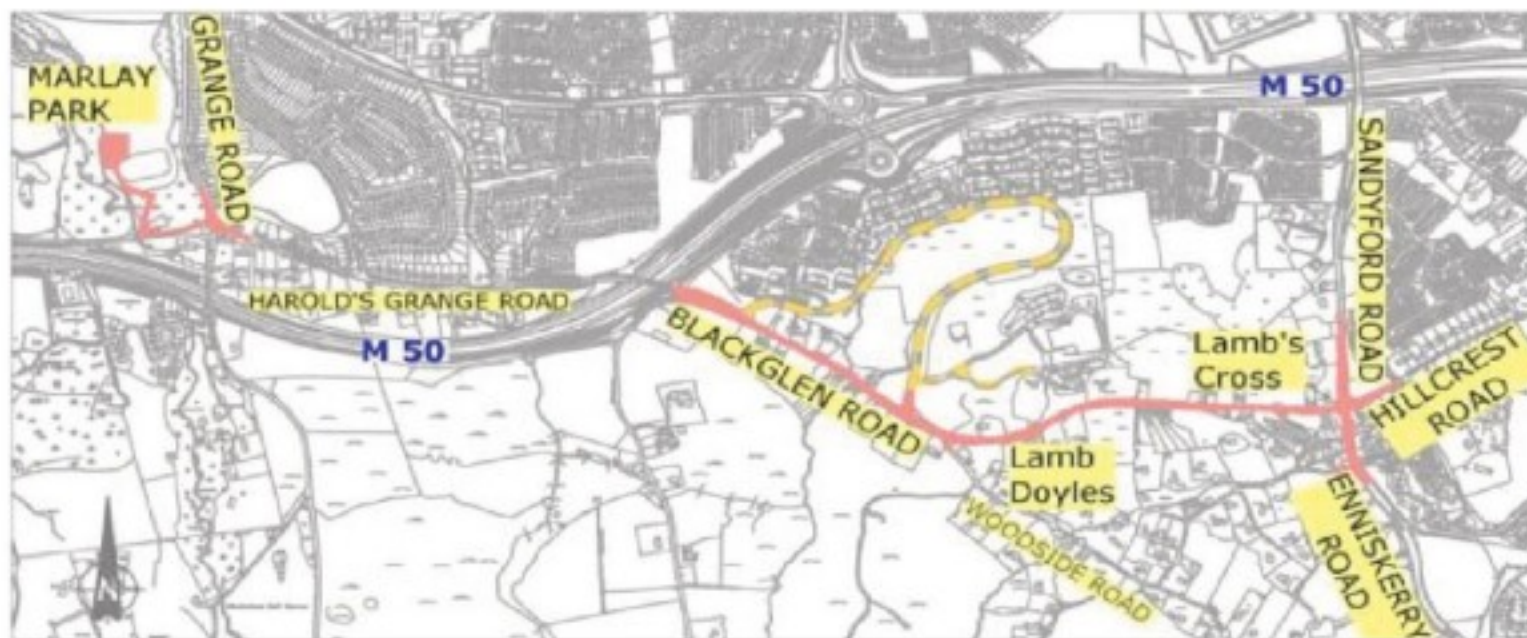
The temporary acquisition of the plots of land as more particularly shown online in red and hatched in orange on Deposit Map Drawing No. DP0001 and Deposit Map Drawing No. DP0002 at the locations as described (a) to (e) above and described in Part II of the Schedule to the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Compulsory Purchase (Blackglenn Road Improvement Scheme) Order, 2018.

PART III

The permanent acquisition of a section of the access laneway off Blackglenn Road in the Townland of Balally as shown between the lines AA-BB on Deposit Map Drawing No. DP0001 over which there is a private right of way as more particularly described in Part III of the Schedule to the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Compulsory Purchase (Blackglenn Road Improvement Scheme) Order, 2018.

Dated this 16th day of April 2019

Frank Austin,
Director of Services,
Infrastructure and Climate Change Department



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council,
County Hall, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland
Comhairle Contae Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin,
Halla an Chontae, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Átha Cliath, Éire
Tel: 01 205 4700 Fax: 01 230 0299 Web: www.dlrco.ie



News

Attentive:
Delegates listen to Garda Commissioner Drew Harris at the AGSI annual conference in Cavan.
PHOTO: TONY GAVIN



Gardaí seek guidelines on their role at evictions

Tom Brady

MID-RANKING gardaí have called on their commissioner to publish a policy document outlining guidelines on how they should perform their role at forced evictions.

The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (AGSI) is also seeking training for its members on dealing with incidents where they were "stuck in the middle" between the sheriff and his agents and those being evicted.

Gardaí are becoming increasingly concerned about their role in the wake of highly publicised incidents in Dublin and Strokestown, Co Roscommon, in recent months.

Association national executive member Paul McDermott, from Roscommon-Longford division, told the AGSI annual conference yesterday that it needed a set of standard operating procedures in place to provide clarity about duties at evictions.

He said those incidents were particularly problematic for gardaí in rural areas where members were embedded in their community and the difficulties they faced increased if they knew those involved.

"It's a complex issue, our role is to be there to make sure a breach of the peace does not occur.

"We should have adequate notice about when these events are taking place to allow us to plan for them.

"The sheriff provides us with a copy of the court order but there should be an operational plan, taking account of the health and safety involved," Mr McDermott added.

Meanwhile, Garda Commissioner Drew Harris has said the row that has created a rift

in the leadership of the AGSI is affecting the overall Garda organisation. He said the allegations that had been made concerning a member of the association were being treated very seriously and must be given due process.

He trusted the association and its members, he added, and when a conclusion was reached, he hoped the issue could be resolved in terms of not only the association but also An Garda Síochána.

Mr Harris told reporters he was precluded from commenting on the specifics of the case but he said the allegations were being dealt with expeditiously and he hoped he would soon see "the papers" in respect of that. He hoped to study those papers carefully and make an objective decision based on them.



Voicing his concerns: Garda Commissioner Drew Harris

"The question of discipline in an organisation, particularly a policing organisation, is a very important one," he said.

Asked about his security arrangements, which resulted in armed PSNI officers taking the commissioner across the Border and driving into Garda headquarters in their vehicle, Mr Harris said he was satisfied that they were in line with the protocols that had been in place for the past six years.

"Regrettably because of the lifestyle, threats have been imposed on me and because of this I receive security. It is not a position that one would volunteer for but at the same time does directly relate to my security and that of my family," he said.

Uathmhheaisíní bainc faoin tuath i mbaol i ndiadh go leor gadaíochta

Le **Sinéad Nic Con Rí**

Tá inní ag méadú go gcuirfidh na príomhbhainc deireadh le **huathmhheaisíní bainc** (UMBanna) faoin tuath i ndiaidh go leor gadaíochta le sé mhí anuas.

D’fhoghlaim Seachtain go bhfuil foirne slándála na mbanc ag cuardach bealaí nua chun na meaisíní airgid a chosaint ar ghadaíocht a dhéantar le tochtóirí a goideadh iad féin.

Foirne slándála ag cuardach bealaí nua chun na meaisíní airgid a chosaint

Ach sa chás nach féidir na cosaintí cearta a thabhairt isteach, d’fhéadfadh go mbeadh orthu na UMBanna a chur isteach i siopaí nó a bhaint ar fad.

Agus tá foinsí tar éis rabhadh a thabhairt má chuirtear na UMBanna isteach i siopaí go bhféadfadh sé níos

mó damáiste agus scriosta a chruthú nuair a ionsaíonn na **buíonta coir-iúlachta**.

Tá foirne slándála i mBanc na hÉireann agus AIB ag oibriú go dlúth leis an PSNI agus an Garda Síochána chun teacht ar fhreagra ar

an ngadaíocht a chruthaigh inní i bpobail inar dúnadh na scórtha craobhacha bainc le deich mbliana anuas.

Deir iar-Theachta Dála do Chontae na Mí, Dominic Hannigan, go bhfuil faitíos ar dhaoine.

“Tá fíorfhaitíos inár bpobail thuaithe go bhfuil an UMB áitiúil i mbaol anois mar gheall ar an líon uafásach gadaíochtaí le cúpla mí anuas,” a dúirt sé.

Ar lean ar leathanach 20

FOCLÓIRÍN

huathmhheaisíní bainc: ATMs
buíonta coir-iúlachta: criminal gangs
bithiúnaigh: thugs
grúpaí faireacháin: watch groups



Croí agus anam na mban spóirt

Is cinnte go bhfuil a fhios ag Aoife Ní Chasaide na dúshlán a bhaineann le mná i gcúrsaí spóirt. D’imir Aoife camógaíocht le foireann Shleacht Uí Néill a bhuaigh Craobh na hÉireann faoi dhó agus anois seo í ag malartú pháirc na himeartha ar an scáileán beag chun dúshlán úr a ghlacadh. Is í Aoife an láithreoir ar shraith úr ‘Mná Spóirt’ a bheidh ag tosú oíche amárach (Déardaoin) ar TG4.

Labhróidh Aoife le Katie Mullan, captaen fhoireann haca na hÉireann a bhuaigh bonn airgid ag Corn an Domhain sa Haca in 2018, faoi na cairde a rinne sí tríd an spórt.

Agus beidh sí ag caint freisin le Leah McCourt (sa phictiúr), bean óg atá ag tabhairt aghaidh ar spórt atá go mór i mbéal na conspóide - MMA.

Tá sé i gceist go mbeidh Rena Buckley, bean atá i mbéal na conspóide í féin mar gur i mBéarla a labhair sí ar chlár ‘Laochra Gael’ faoi agallamh ar an tsraith seo a rinne an comhlacht Doubleband Films.

DEA-SHEACHTAIN / DROCHSHEACHTAIN LE CONCUBHAR Ó LIATHÁIN



DEA-SHEACHTAIN: GAME OF THRONES

Nuair a imríonn tú Cluiche na gCorónach, imríonn tú ar son bua nó báis.

B'in an chomhairle a chuir an Bhanríon Cersei ar a deartháir uair amháin agus seasann sé go fóill.

Táim ana-shásta - mar atá **andúiligh** *Game of Thrones* ar fuaid na cruinne - go bhfuil sé ar ais ar ár scáileáin. Breis is 1bn a d'amharc ar an gcéad eagrán den ochtú sraith - an tsraith dheireanach - nuair a craoladh é oíche Dé Domhnaigh. Bhí sé feicthe agam maidin Dé Luain sara d'éirigh mé as mo leaba.

Dá ndéarfainn leat conas a rinne mé seo, bheadh orm thú a mharú! (Nó dul ar mo sheachaint ó Fhir Faire na Bradaíola Idirlín).

Bhíomar ag fanacht ar an tsraith seo le dhá bhliain agus tá an geimhreadh tagtha go cinnte in Westeros. Tá na dragain ag lasadh na spéire agus tá Arm na Siúlóirí Oíche ag tarraingt ar Winterfell.

Ach ná bí buartha, bhí 1 bhiliún ag amharc oíche Dé Domhnaigh/maidin Dé Luain. Le lucht féachana chomh mór sin, beidh a

thuilleadh le cloisteáil ó Westeros, ná bíodh aon amhras ort faoi sin. Idir an dá linn, tá súil agam nach gcuirfear iachall orm dul 'ar an bhfalla'.

DROCHSHEACHTAIN: AN SÍNEADH FADA

Nuair a dhiúltaigh an Coimisiún um Chosaint Sonraí do ghearán Chiaráin Uí Chofaigh faoina ainm a bheith mílitríthe ar thaifid ospidéil ina raibh sé ag fáil **cóir leighis** don ailse, an raibh a fhios acu cad a bhí ar bun acu?

Dhiúltaigh siad don ghearán mar, dar leo, tá sé maith go leor gan fada a chur ar ainm Gaeilge. Anois is mó ná pobal na Gaeilge a bhaineann feidhm as an síneadh fada agus tá eagrás bunaithe ar líne, *Our Fada*, chun cosaint a thabhairt do dhaoine a cheapann go bhfuil leatrom á dhéanamh orthu toisc go bhfuil a n-ainmneacha á míltriú mar nach bhfuil síneadh fada ann nuair is cóir dó bheith ann.

Is **ait** an áit i an tír seo uaireanta, ní ghlacaimid le míchruinneas ná míltriú seachas gur i nGaeilge atá sé.

FOCLÓIRÍN

andúiligh: addicts
cóir leighis: medical treatment
ait: strange

Scéalta.na seachtaine

SPRAOI

Leagan 'Lego' de Theach Solais Fhánada le tógáil?

Aithnítear **Teach Solais** Fhánada i dTír Chonaill mar cheann de na foirgnimh is áille ar domhan - agus anois tá seans go mbeidh deis agat leagan Lego a thógáil.

Mar chuid de chomórtas dearaidh ar líne, tá **déantóirí** na mbricí beaga plaisteacha tar éis Teach Solais Fhánada a chur i measc roghanna eile d'fhoirgnimh íocónacha a d'fhéadfadh an comhlacht a chur ar fáil d'andúiligh Lego ar fud na cruinne.

Ceantar Gaeltachta é Fánaid in iarthuaisceart na tíre agus arú anuraidh bhí scannánaíocht á déanamh sa cheantar le haghaidh Star Wars The Last Jedi.

Faoi láthair tá breis is 200 vóta ag an Teach Solais agus tá fuilleach ama fágtha chun vótáil ar a shon ar an suíomh ideas.lego.com.

"Ba bhreá linn dá roghnófaí ár dTeach Solais le go ndéanfaí **táirge** Lego as," a dúirt Eimear Nic Mathúna, bainisteoir an Tí Solais le *Seachtain*.

FOCLÓIRÍN

Teach Solais: Lighthouse
déantóirí: makers
táirge: product



UMBanna i mbaol i ndiaidh gadaíochta

Ar lean ó leathanach 19

"Tá go leor pobail bheaga faoin tuath, go háirithe ar an teorainn, tar éis fulaingt de bharr gur dúnadh craobhacha áitiúla baine le blianta beaga anuas.

"I gcás go leor daoine, tá an teacht ar an UMB riachtanach mar gurb é sin an tsairbhís dheireanach bainc éireachta ina bpobal.

"Tá na **bithiúnaigh** atá ag tabhairt faoin ngadaíocht seo ag cur fiú an leibhéil seirbhíse sin i mbaol."

Tá Hannigan ag fanacht ar fhreagra ar cheisteanna a d'fhiafraigh sé de Phríomhfhéidhmeannaigh na mbanc go léir.

"Caithfidh na bainc an fód a sheasamh in aghaidh na mbuionta

coiriúlachta seo agus seasamh leis na pobail agus deireadh a chur leis an amhras atá ar dhaoine faoi láthair," a dúirt sé.

I Machaire Rátha i gContae Dhoire, tá úinéir siopa Centra tar éis bloic ollmhóra choincréite a chur os comhair an UMB.

Dúirt Ron Delnevo, stiúrthóir Eorpach ATMIA, cumann thionscal na n-uathmheaisíní bainc, go leanfar leis an ngadaíocht go dtí go mbeirtear ar na gadaithe.

"Bunaithe ar ghadaíocht dá leithéid in áiteanna eile san Eoraip, leanfaidh na coirpigh orthu," a dúirt sé.

"D'éileoinn ar mhuintir an háite i mbailte agus i sráidbhailte **grúpaí faireacháin** a bhunú do na UMBanna más féidir."

Tá nach mór fiche bliain caite ó bhíos ag múineadh, thaitin an post go mór liom go mórmhór an t-am seo bliana! Nuair a thagann an Cháisc tagann laethanta scoile ar ais chugam. Coicis saoire idir an Nollaig agus briseadh mór an tsamhraidh.

Fiú nuair a bhíos ar an aimsir ar TG4 is minic a thógfainn saoire an mhúinteora. Tá tamall fada ó bhí am saor agam dó agus mo chairde ón gcoláiste ar fad thar lear de réir na bpictiúr ar fad ar Instagram!

Go maraí an Diabhail an tInstagram céanna. Níl faic orm anois le cúpla lá ach éad agus mé chomh bán le heala!

Ó thaobh cúrsaí creidimh sí an Cháisc an fhéile is tábhachtaí do Chríostaithe. "Níos tábhachtaí ná an Nollaig?" a deir tú, sea. Cé go bhfuil nósanna Aifrinne caillte againn don gcuid is mó is dóigh liom go dtéann níos mó dínn ar Aifreann don gCáisc seachas an Nollaig.

Is cuimhin liom na hullmhúcháin a bhíodh ann d'Aifreann na Cásca



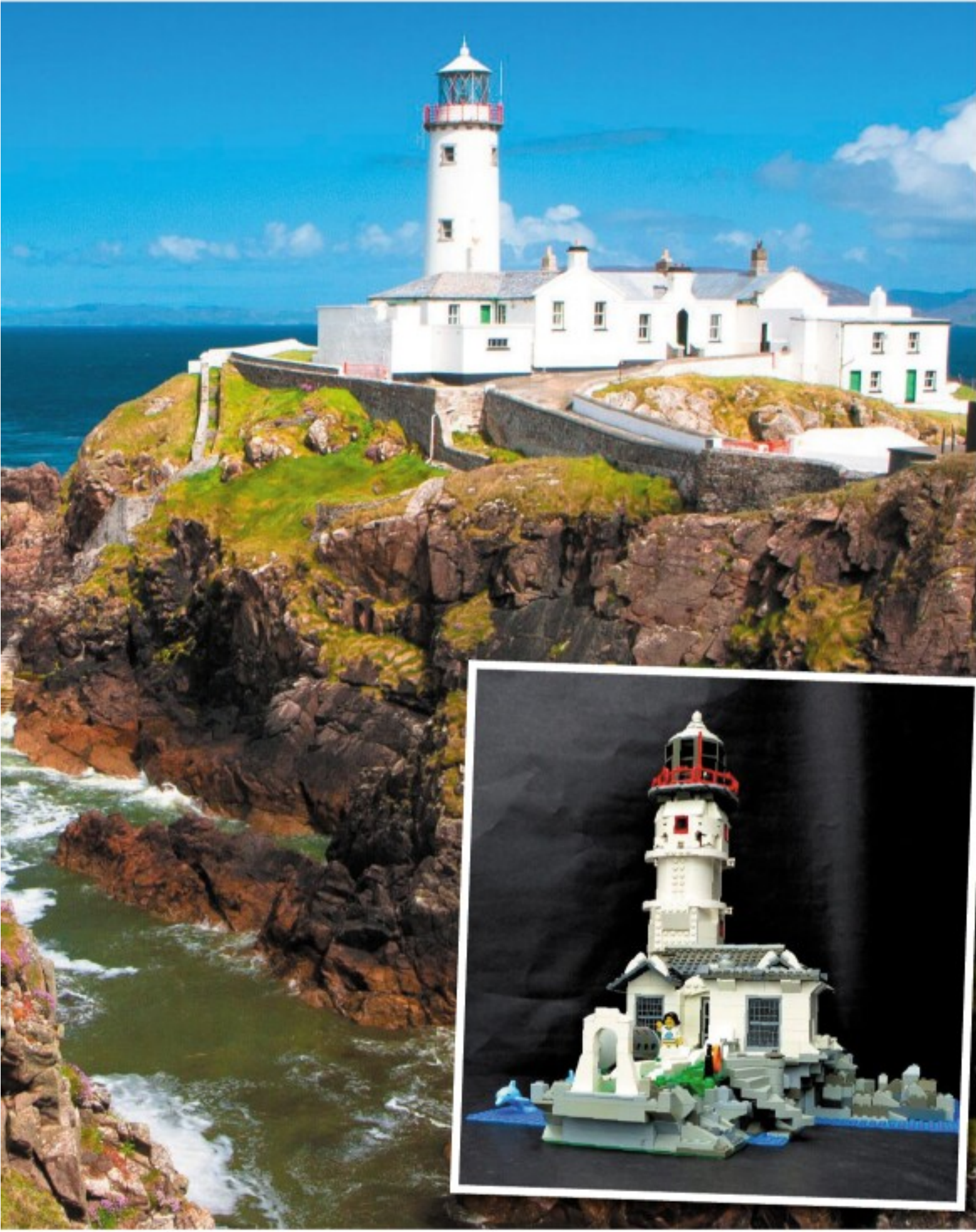
An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta
National Council for Curriculum and Assessment

OIFIGIGH OIDEACHAIS

Ar mhaith leat cur le múnú thodhchaí an oideachais in Éirinn? Is mian leis an gComhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta Oifigigh Oideachais bhreise a earcú don Oideachas Iar-bhunscoile.

Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil nó chun iarratas a dhéanamh téigh chuig <https://www.ncca.ie/en/about-curriculum/corporate-information/careers>

Spríodhata:
12 meán lae, Déardaoin, 2 Bealtaine 2019.



FOLÚNTAS

Cultúrlann ag lorg Stiúrthóra

Tá ceann de na poist is tábhachtaí i saol na Gaeilge le líonadh go luath. Fógraíodh an tseachtain seo caite go bhfuil Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich in iarthar Bhéal Feirste ag lorg duine chun tabhairt faoi stiúradh na Cultúrlainne le linn **saoire mháithreachais**. Beidh an té a cheapfar frea-

grach as an ionad ealaíon Gaeilge a stiúradh ar feadh bliana. Le gairid d'éirigh le stiúrthóir na Cultúrlainne, Aisling Ní Labhraí, agus a foireann seilbh bhuan a fháil ar an bhfoirgneamh. Tháinig an t-ionad slán ó iarrachtaí éagsúla Fhoras na Gaeilge gearradh siar go mór ar a mhaoiniú freisin.

POP UP GAELTACHT

An gabhar á róstadh ag Gaeilgeoirí Washington DC

Más amhlaidh go n-éiríonn Uachtarán SAM, Donald Trump, bréan den chiapadh atá á dhéanamh air faoi Thuarascáil Mueller is eile, ní gá do ach siúl síos an tsráid ón Teach Bán chun blaiseadh den fhéile Ghaeilge is déanaí ar chlár na cruinne. Is cinnte go mbeadh suim ag an Uachtarán Trump san ócáid anocht (Dé Chéadaoin) sa Chevy Chase Pavillion in Friendship Heights. Is anocht an **'Oíche Dhána'** le

cuidiú leat daoine a mhaslú, do ghrá a chur in iúl agus go leor eile. Do dhaoine fásta amháin an ócáid seo, áfach. Dé hAoine i gCiorcal Dupont, i dtábhairne Hobans, beidh Pop Up Gaeltacht phríomhchathair SAM ar bun. Agus más mian leat snas a chur ar do Ghaeilge beidh rang 'Build on the Basics' ar siúl sa Chevy Chase Pavillion maidin Dé Sathairn. Tá eolas breise ar feilena-gailege.com.

FOCLÓIRÍN

saoire mháithreachais: maternity leave
Oíche Dhána:

naughty night
Buille marfach: deadly blow
muinín: confidence

GAELTACHT

Díomá faoi chinneadh pleanála

Tá fearg agus díomá curtha in iúl ag pobal in iarthar Chonamara mar gheall ar chinneadh an Bhoird Pleanála diúltú d'iarratas ó Udarás na Gaeltachta ionad d'oifigí a thógáil. An t-eagras Jabanna d'Iorras Aithneach atá ag léiriú díomá mar gheall gur diúltaíodh don iarratas foirgneamh oifigí a thógáil ar Pháirc na Mara i gCill Chiaráin. "Tá sé dochreidte gur féidir

le daoine ón taobh amuigh an méid sin tionchair a bheith acu ar ár n-áit, daoine nach bhfuil aon cheangal acu leis an áit," a dúradh sa ráiteas. "**Buille marfach** d'Iorras Aithneach" a thug an t-eagras ar an gcinneadh seo agus dúradh nach raibh aon mhuinín ag pobal an cheantair as an mBord Pleanála de bharr an chinnidh seo. Cheadaigh Comhairle na Gailimhe an t-iarratas ar dtús.

Aoine an Chéasta, lá mór óil, scriosta de bharr deireadh leis an gcosc ar ól sna tithe tábhairne

agus stáisiún na croise. Bhíos im' bhuachaill altóra agus bhíodh cleachtadh seachtaine againn dó. Ba chuma linne mar bhíodh am saor ón scoil againn dá bharr! Sin ráite bhíodh slua millteach ar an Aifreann agus bhí sórt brú i gceist leis. Rud amháin a sheasann ann i gcónaí ná go raibh an tAifreann sin ana-fhada. Am clainne a bhí ann dúinne i gcónaí. Deoch a bhí bainteach leis an Nollaig agus dul amach i rith an tsamhraidh, ach nuair a tháinig sé go dtí an Cháisc bhíomar ar fad le chéile. Tá sé mar seo an t-am ar fad. Is minic deichniúr againn sa tig do

DÁITHÍ Ó SÉ



dhinnéar na Cásca agus gach éinne bailithe isteach don tráth-nóna. Gan dabht tháinig athrú ar chúrsaí Aoine an Chéasta an bhliain ar tugadh cead dul ag ól sna tithe tábhairne, botún a bhí anseo dar liom. Scriosadh ceann dos na laethanta óil ab fhearr a bhí ann. Is cuimhin liom a bheith istigh i bpub agus an áit in ainm is a bheith dúnta agus

bús daoine istigh ann. Bhí rud éigin speisialta ann nuair a bhís ag ól gan cead! Tá coinín na Cásca ana-mhór sa tig againne i mbliana, ní cuimhin liom é a bheith chomh tábhachtach nuair a bhíos fhéin óg, rud eile atá tagtha chugainn ó Mheiriceá ach ní olc an rud é sin. Má chuireann tú coinín na Cásca agus an píosa ar gheall ar Íosa le chéile b'fhéidir ná fuil ciall leis ach deineann sé féile mhaith! Is mó rud sa tsaol seo ná deineann ciall agus seo ceann eile acu. Cúis teacht le chéile atá ann ar aon chuma. Beannachtaí na Cásca.



Traidisiún: Tá an-tóir ar choinín na Cásca i dteach Dháithí i mbliana

Seachtain.Spórt

Dé Céadaoin, 17 Aibreán 2019

le Máire Treasa Ní Cheallaigh



BUAICPHOINTE NA SEACHTAINE

Léiríonn an spórt deacrachtaí an tsaoil. Tarlaíonn rudaí, agus bíonn ort obair go crua chun taisteal ar ais ag an mbóthar ceart. Sin atá déanta ag Tiger Woods.

Tar éis fadhbanna pearsanta, pian droma, agus cóir leighis mar gheall go raibh sé tógtha le pianmhúcháin, tháinig sé ar ais. Tar éis 11 bhliain, fuair sé a 15ú bua mór. 2008 go deireanach a bhuaigh

sé, agus bhí go leor a cheap nach mbeadh sé fiú ábalta **luascadh** ar an bhféar níos mó, ní áirím comórtas ollmhór mar Mháistrí na Stát Aontaithe a thabhairt leis.

Trí bhua atá idir é agus Jack Nicklaus, galtaire a bhfuil 18 mór-theideal aige.

Ba é Woods ab fhearr a dhéileáil leis an aimsir throm, ghaofar in Augusta, agus faoi dheireadh, agus

an domhan mór ag féachaint air, chríochnaigh sé chun tosaigh.

Ní minic a fheictear éacht mar é, agus sin an fáth a bhfuil an oiread sin spéise ina scéal. Ní thaitneoidh sé le gach duine, tá íoctha go daor aige as a bhotúin, ach bhí teacht ar ais sa bhféar. Sin ceacht dúinn ar fad.

PIC: AP

BUAITEOIR NA SEACHTAINE

Éacht na gConnachtach

Tá siad i mbabhtá cáilithe an Pro14 agus beidh siad i gCraobh na Seaimpíní an bhliain seo chugainn tar éis a mbua in aghaidh Cardiff Blues.



CAILLIÚNAÍ NA SEACHTAINE

Conspóid an FAI

Níl aon deireadh fós leis an gconspóid san eagraíocht agus imní go leor ar chlubanna sacair na tíre faona bhfuil **i ndán**.

TUAIRIM

An mbeidh an lá le City nó Liverpool sa tSraith?



B'fhéidir anois, faoin tráth seo, go dtosóidh daoine ag smaoinéamh go bhféadfadh Liverpool Príomhroinn Shasana a thabhairt leo, agus craobh Shraith na Seaimpíní chomh maith.

Bhí sé soiléir go raibh muinín nua ag foireann Jürgen Klopp agus iad ag cur Chelsea de dhroim seoil Dé Domhnaigh, agus beidh siad ag féachaint leis an rud céanna a dhéanamh le Porto anocht.

Tá sé cúig bliana ón gluiche cáiliúil sin in aghaidh Chelsea nuair a shleamhnaigh Steven Gerrard, agus **shleamhnaigh** an teideal ó Liverpool, ach tá rudaí athraithe go mór anois.

COIMEÁD SÚILAR

Pheil na mBan

Dé Sathairn agus Dé Domhnaigh, imreofar dhá chluiche **iomaíocha** peile i bpríomhshraith Pheil na mBan.

Tabharfaidh Gaillimh aghaidh ar Dhún na nGall Dé Sathairn sa Longfort, agus ansin Dé Domhnaigh, beidh na fathaigh Baile Átha Cliath ag imirt in aghaidh Chorcaí.

Imreofar an cluiche sin ar Pháirc Uí Nualláin i gCill Chainnigh. Tá sean-aithne ag na foirne seo ar fad ar a chéile, agus bíonn na cluichí i gcónaí lasrach.

Go háirithe agus Gaillimh agus Dún na nGall ag iarraidh a n-áit a bhaint amach i measc mhná Chorcaí agus Bhaile Átha Cliath.

FOCLÓIRÍN

luascadh: swing
shleamhnaigh: slid

i ndán: in store
iomaíocha: competitive



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills



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Villages feel 'under siege' as 15th cash machine ripped from wall

Jonathan Bell

THIEVES used a digger to rip an ATM from a wall in Co Antrim.

It is the 15th theft of a cash machine on the island of Ireland since March last year.

In the latest robbery, the culprits used a tractor and trailer to transport a digger to the Market Square area of Bushmills, Co Antrim, at around 3.30am yesterday.

The excavator was then used to rip the machine from the wall. Both the tractor and the digger were set alight and destroyed by fire, with police and the fire service attending the scene.

Traditional Unionist Voice MLA Jim Allister said a lack of police presence had left the area "wide open for these gangs" and the "criminals were winning". The Diamond area of the town remained sealed off as police continued their investigations.

There is concern in Bushmills over the loss of the machine just ahead of the busy Easter holidays.

One witness said: "At about 3.20am, I heard a massive crash followed by another crash. I thought it was thunder. It's unreal that this has happened in our village."

"It now means people will not be able to get cash, especially coming up to the Easter holidays, when the village will be very busy with tourists, given its location in proximity to Bushmills Distillery and the Giant's Causeway."

A short time later another vehicle was found burnt out at the nearby Craighoney Road near Bushmills. It is believed both incidents are linked.

There has been a spate of thefts of cashpoints at various mainly rural locations across Northern Ireland over recent months.

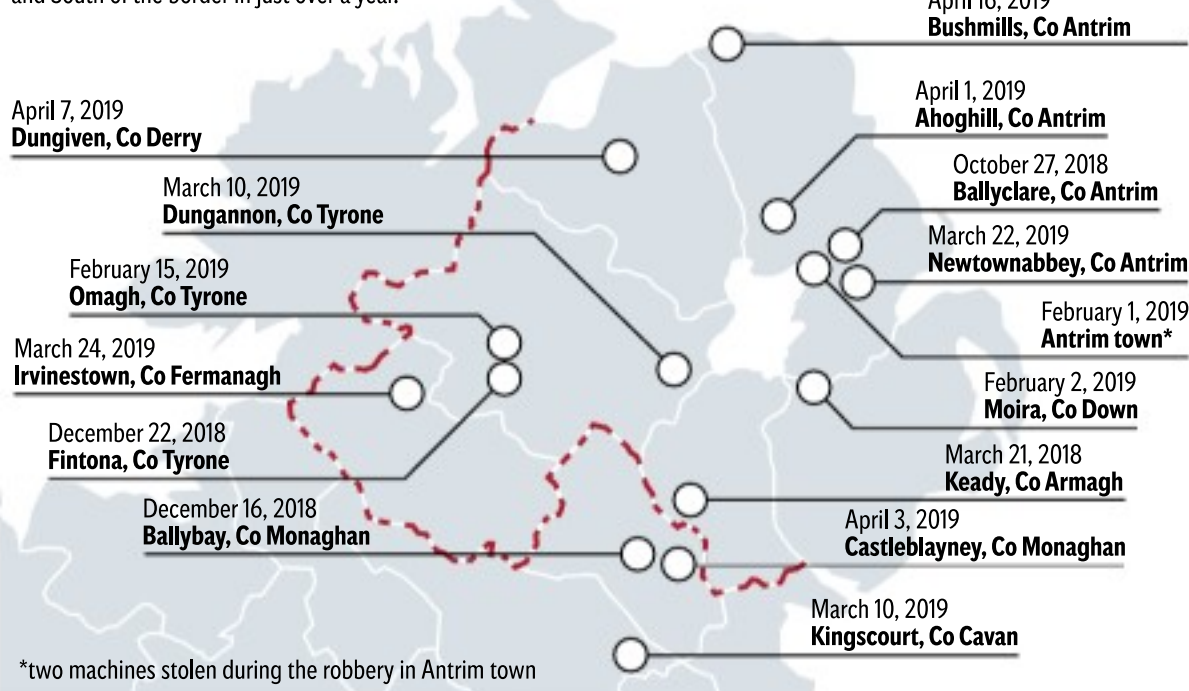
On Friday, police issued an appeal for communities to be on the look-out for heavy plant machinery operating in the early hours of the morning.



Demolished: Passers-by inspect the scene at Market Square in Bushmills, Co Antrim
PHOTO: PRESS ASSOCIATION

ATM ROBBERIES SINCE MARCH 2018

There have been 15 ATM robberies North and South of the border in just over a year.



They also urged builders to ensure their machinery was secured, revealing one incident was thwarted because a digger was fitted with a functioning immobiliser.

"We need communities to help be our eyes and ears," said PSNI Detective Chief Inspector David Henderson. Police have set up a special team of detectives to investigate the thefts. They have also upped patrols at vulnerable and high-risk locations.

Police have defended their response to the spate of thefts, saying they "can't be every-

where at once" and called on the public's support to try and catch those responsible.

Over recent days police have posted several updates of their officers visiting cash machines throughout Northern Ireland. "We don't have crystal balls," one officer said on Facebook in

response to criticism of police actions.

There are concerns communities could be left without cash machines. Retail NI, which represents independent traders, has said shop owners feel "under siege" and that they will be next.

Mr Allister has expressed his anger at the latest theft after a similar raid in Ahoghill earlier this month.

He said: "The paucity of policing in north Antrim is, I believe, making life easy for the criminals. With barely a police officer or police vehicle available within north Antrim during the night, with such service as there is withdrawn to Coleraine, the area has been left wide open for these gangs, who are not ignorant of the opportunities lack of policing presents."

"After Ahoghill, I expected targeting of ATMs, in terms of surveillance and increased patrols by the PSNI, but once more the criminals are winning. This is not good enough. "This is not just another ATM theft, but the ripping of a vital service out of the village of Bushmills."

Man serving a road ban over death of new mum was caught drink-driving

Conor Neeson

A MAN who was serving a five-year driving ban for causing the death of a young mother has been caught drink-driving.

Ciaran McBride, of Lis-trakelt Road, Derrynoose, Co Armagh, pleaded guilty to driving while disqualified, using a vehicle without insurance and driving with excess alcohol, at Armagh Magistrates' Court yesterday.

The offences occurred on the Derrynoose Road in Keady on February 11.

The 33-year-old's solicitor told the court the defendant's "mental health deteriorated" following the incident and that he had become "dependant on alcohol".

Upon reading the pre-sentence report, prepared by probation, District Judge Brian Archer stated: "This man was involved in a very serious road



Tragic incident: Nicola Kenny died a day after birth of her only child

traffic incident in the Republic of Ireland that resulted in a fatality. Three years later he is drink-driving with a reading of 87mg of alcohol in breath."

McBride caused the death of Tipperary woman Nicola Kenny (26) on September 5, 2016, just a day after the birth of her only child Lily Rose.

As well as the five-year ban, the Armagh man was given an 18-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, and ordered to pay €10,000 in compensation to Ms Kenny's parents.

Defence solicitor Chris Rafferty said: "In relation to the offence, Mr McBride instructs that since then, his mental health has deteriorated, and he has become dependant on alcohol."

Judge Archer retorted: "That's even more of a reason for him not to be behind the wheel of a vehicle."

Judge Archer told McBride: "I could very well have sent you to prison for driving while disqualified given your record."

The defendant was sentenced to a combination order consisting of 75 hours of community service and two years on probation.

In addition, McBride was handed a 30-month driving disqualification.

Judge Archer warned the defendant: "If you commit any further motoring offences you will be going to prison."

'Please think of Clodagh, she should be celebrating,' says sister

Amy Molloy

THE sister of Clodagh Hawe asked the public to think of her yesterday, on what would have been her birthday.

Clodagh and her three sons were brutally murdered in 2016 by husband and father Alan Hawe, who then took his own life.

Her sister Jacqueline Connolly said yesterday should have been a day of celebra-

tion, as the young mother would have turned 42. "Today she should be celebrating with her beautiful boys Liam, Niall and Ryan and all who love and miss her dearly. Please take a moment to think of Clodagh today," Ms Connolly said.

Alan Hawe killed Clodagh (39) and sons Liam (13), Niall (11) and Ryan (6) in their home in Ballyjamesduff, Co Cavan.

He killed his wife with a knife and a hatchet, and then



Murder victim Clodagh Hawe would have turned 42

took the lives of the boys before killing himself.

Ms Connolly and her mother Mary Coll recently initiated lawsuits against the estate of killer Hawe. While no statements of claim, which would outline the full reasons for the lawsuits, have been filed to date, the cases are described as "personal injury" actions within the High Court system.

The mother and daughter have been campaigning for

the Garda file on the investigation into what happened on that day in 2016 to be released.

They said that while an inquest had dealt with the who, when and how of the murders, in their view it didn't explain why teacher Hawe killed his family. They are also calling for laws on succession to change so that the relatives of people who wipe out their families do not benefit financially from the crimes.



World News

UNITED STATES

Pulitzer for newspaper where five shot dead

Colin Drury

A LOCAL newspaper in the US has been awarded a prestigious Pulitzer Prize for coverage of a mass shooting in its own newsroom.

The 'Capital Gazette', based in the city of Annapolis, Maryland, won a special citation for the courage of its staff in reporting the massacre in which five colleagues were killed.

The paper published on schedule the day after the atrocity – believed to be the worst mass attack on journalists in US history.

Employees John McNamara, Wendi Winters, Rebecca Smith, Gerald Fischman and Rob Hiaasen all died during the incident last June.

A reader said to have had a

long-standing grudge against the paper has been charged with five counts of murder. Jarrod Ramos will stand trial in November.

Speaking shortly after the \$100,000 prize was announced, surviving staff said the recognition was "bittersweet". Reporter Chase Cook said: "Since it's so connected to something so tragic, there was no euphoric pop-off of excitement."

Editor Rick Hutzell added: "Clearly, there were a lot of mixed feelings. No one wants to win an award for something that kills five of your friends."

Prizes also went to the New York Times and Wall Street Journal for investigations of Donald Trump. (© Independent News Service)

Trump bids to stop 'political attack' on his presidency

Subpoena for financial information 'not enforceable', claim his lawyers

Tom Hamburger
WASHINGTON

LAWYERS for US President Donald Trump have told an accounting firm working for him that it would be improper to turn over tax documents to a House committee that is expected to issue a subpoena for the material.

Last week, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, Elijah Cummings, announced his intention to subpoena Mazars USA after the company refused a March request to hand over Mr Trump's financial documents, citing laws and rules that require a subpoena for such documents.

Democrat Mr Cummings said the company had requested a "friendly subpoena" before it would comply with the request for information related to the Trump Organisation, the president's revocable trust and other entities.

Lawyers for the president and the Trump Organisation wrote in a letter to the accounting firm's counsel that a committee subpoena "would not be valid or enforceable".

The president's lawyers – William Consovoy and Stefan Passantino – wrote that a subpoena from Mr Cummings's panel would be invalid "because it would have no legitimate legislative purpose".

They said "the real reason chairman Cummings wants our clients' financial information is to advance the Democrat Party's agenda of politically attacking President Trump... The Democrats' fervour has only intensified after the special counsel squelched their 'Russia collusion' narrative".

In a statement, Mazars USA said the firm "believes strongly in the ethical and professional rules and regulations that govern our industry, our work and our client interactions".

"As a matter of firm policy and professional rules we do not comment on the work we conduct for our clients," the firm said. "Mazars USA will respect the legal process and fully comply with its legal obligations."

The pressure on the accounting firm to resist the looming subpoena comes after the Treasury Department missed an initial deadline to hand over



Democrats expect Trump to take the battle over tax returns to the courts

Mr Trump's tax returns to the House Ways and Means Committee, which then set another deadline of April 23.

Democrats in the House expect the Trump administration to take the battle over the tax returns to the courts, so they have sought other avenues to learn about Mr Trump's business practises.

The House panel told Mazars that it is seeking the documents to corroborate testimony of the president's former lawyer, Michael Cohen, who told a congressional hearing recently that Mr Trump artificially inflated and deflated the reported value of his assets

NORWAY

Airline tells female staff they need a doctor's note to wear flat shoes

Maya Oppenheim

NORWEGIAN Air has told its female staff that they must carry a doctor's note at all times if they want to wear flat shoes.

The airline, which has been fiercely criticised, told its women employees they must wear heels which are at least 2cm tall, in a 22-page dress code. Women are required to have a doctor's note at all times and update it every six months if they want to wear flat shoes.

Norway's largest airline has been accused of being trapped in a "Mad Men" universe" – a reference to a popular US period drama

which portrays the sexist and patriarchal attitudes of the 1960s.

"It is almost comical that we face these issues in 2019," Ingrid Hodnebo, a women's spokesperson for the country's Socialist Left Party, told Norwegian newspaper 'VG'.

"While the rest of society has moved on, Norwegian is stuck in the 'Mad Men' universe from the 1950s and '60s'.

Norwegian Air said staff are allowed to wear flat shoes in the cabin and the doctor's note refers to female footwear when worn outside the cabin. (© Independent News Service)

SPAIN

Embassies building in Madrid evacuated after bomb threat

Donna Heart

A SKYSCRAPER housing embassies in Madrid was evacuated yesterday after a bomb threat was received by telephone at the Australian embassy there, a police spokeswoman said.

The 57-storey, 235-metre-high Torre Espacio, one of

four towers located in the Spanish capital's financial district, also houses the embassies of Britain and Canada. A British embassy spokeswoman said its staff had been evacuated around midday.

TV footage showed a police cordon and fire trucks outside the building.



Business

Turkey risks unrest over call for new Istanbul poll

Sanders releases 10-year tax returns

Conrad Duncan
WASHINGTON

BERNIE SANDERS became a millionaire in 2016, putting him in the top 1pc of earners in the US, according to the senator's long-anticipated release of 10 years of his tax returns.

The release confirms Mr Sanders's income crossed the \$1m (€885,000) threshold in 2016 and 2017, although he reported lower earnings in his most recent return.

In the Vermont senator's

2018 return, he and his wife, Jane Sanders, earned more than \$550,000, including \$133,000 income from his Senate salary and \$391,000 in book sales.

The Sanders campaign said he paid 26pc effective tax rate in 2018.

The release comes as Mr Sanders faces criticism that his new-found wealth contradicts his political message of democratic socialism in his 2020 presidential campaign.

During a Fox News town hall

'I'm not going to say sorry for writing a book that sold all over the world'

meeting on Monday, the senator said his increased income came from the publication of his book, 'Our Revolution: A Future to Believe In'.

Bestseller

At the televised meeting, Mr Sanders said he would not apologise for his recent wealth. "That money in my case, and my wife's case, came from a book I wrote, a pretty good book, you might want to read it," he said.

"It was a bestseller, it sold all

RUSSIA
Moscow to site anti-aircraft missiles in Arctic

RUSSIA will deploy anti-aircraft missiles in the Arctic for the first time since the Cold War as Moscow builds up its military presence in the far north. S-400 missiles, which can shoot down planes and cruise missiles from up to 400km, will be stationed on the Arctic coast and islands by the end of 2020, the 'Izvestia' newspaper reported.

SPACE
Earth-sized planet discovered... that's very hot

A NEW space telescope has discovered its first Earth-sized planet in a star system beyond the solar system. Nasa's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (Tess) aims to find at least 50 small rocky planets during its two-year mission. Any prospect of finding life on the newly discovered planet have been scuppered as it has searing surface temperatures of more than 400C.



for personal gain. Cohen gave the committee financial statements he said Mr Trump provided to Deutsche Bank during a 2014 bid to buy the Buffalo Bills American football team. They showed Mr Trump's net worth soared from \$4.55bn in 2012 to \$8.66bn in 2013 because of the addition of \$4bn worth of "brand value" – essentially the value Mr Trump placed on his name. Meanwhile, new figures reveal his latest campaign fundraising haul highlights the growing financial dominance of the president's re-election machine.

Political blow: US first lady Melania Trump gets out of a vehicle as she arrives for a visit to Fort Bragg to meet with US troops and their families in North Carolina.
PHOTO: LUCAS JACKSON/REUTERS

In the first three months of 2019, Mr Trump's campaign and two affiliated committees raised \$39m (€34.5m) – his best fundraising quarter since his election, according to the campaign and federal records. That brings the total raised by his 2020 campaign and two committees to \$130m (€115m), a record for an incumbent president at this point. All Democratic candidates together raised \$82.3m (€72.8m) from January 1 until March 31. At this point in the 2008 election cycle, eight Democratic candidates had together raised \$85.4m. Senator Bernie Sanders of

Vermont reported the biggest haul with \$18.2m (€16.1m), followed by \$12m (€10.2m) raised by Senator Kamala Harris of California and \$9.4m (€8.3m) collected by former congressman Beto O'Rourke of Texas. Pete Buttigieg, mayor of South Bend, Indiana, raised \$7m (€6.1m) – a large amount for a newcomer to national politics. Four senators trailed Mr Buttigieg: Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts (\$6m/€5.1m), Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota (\$5.2m/€4.6m), Cory Booker of New Jersey (\$5.1m) and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York (\$3m/€2.6m). (© Washington Post)

— showing he's in top 1pc of earners



over the world, and we made money. So if anyone thinks I should apologise for writing a bestselling book, I'm sorry I'm not going to do it." He also challenged Don-

Bernie Sanders: Challenged Trump to release his tax returns

ald Trump to release his tax returns. "I guess the president watches your network a little bit, right?" Mr Sanders said to moderators Bret Baier and Martha MacCallum. "Hey, President Trump. My wife and I just released 10 years. Please do the same." Mr Trump broke from decades of presidential tradition by refusing to show voters his tax returns during his 2016 presidential campaign. In 2016, Mr Sanders released just one year of his tax returns

and faced criticism from his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton for refusing to release multiple years of tax documents. Mr Sanders's tax returns show he is among the top 1pc of earners in the US, which some critics argue undermines his calls for an economy and government that works for everyone, not just the 1pc. According to the Economic Policy Institute, families in the US earning \$421,926 or more a year are part of this group. (© Independent News Service)

Breakthrough diabetes drug protects against kidney disease

Alex Matthews-King
LONDON

A BREAKTHROUGH treatment could help protect hundreds of millions of people from the "21st century epidemic" of deadly diabetic kidney disease, a major trial has found. Research from Australia and the UK has shown that a once-a-day blood sugar lowering drug, canagliflozin, reduced cases of kidney failure and death by a third in diabetic patients. There are nearly five million UK diabetics and diabetic kidney disease costs the NHS as much as £927m (€1bn) a year, according to researchers. However there have been no new treatments for nearly two decades. "There are more than 400 million people with diabetes worldwide, around 40pc of these people will get kidney disease," said the study's lead author Professor Vlado Perkovic, executive director of the George Institute for Global Health. "Once they've got kidney disease, they're at very high risk of kidney failure, heart attack,

stroke and of death." Diabetic kidney disease is caused by years of poorly controlled blood sugar damaging the blood vessels in the kidneys, and undermining its ability to clean the blood of salts, protein and other waste products that can cause damage. As well as increasing the risk of death from a range of cardiovascular conditions, people who develop kidney failure may require regular dialysis sessions to clean their blood. To test the effects of canagliflozin, the authors recruited 4,401 patients with diabetes and kidney disease across 34 countries. They randomly assigned them to receive either canagliflozin, or a placebo, on top of their regular diabetes treatment. The trial was stopped early because its high success rates meant leaving some participants on a placebo was unethical. Its findings, published in the 'New England Journal of Medicine', show that over two and a half years kidney failure and deaths fell by 34pc compared to the placebo group. (© Independent News Service)

Fund-raiser 'took measles from New York to Michigan'

Harriet Alexander
NEW YORK

THE measles epidemic gripping the US was spread to Michigan last month by a New York man who was travelling across the country to raise money for charity, health officials have revealed. The carrier was fundraising in Brooklyn's ultra-Orthodox Jewish community before he drove to Detroit, where he spread the disease through visits to synagogues and markets. Feeling ill when he arrived on March 13, he saw a doctor who misdiagnosed his symptoms as bronchitis.

Since the unnamed man arrived in Michigan, 39 cases have been confirmed in the state. "Every one of our cases has had a link to the initial case," said Leigh-Anne Stafford, health officer for Oakland County in Detroit. The World Health Organisation yesterday declared the number of measles cases around the world has increased by 300pc in the past year. The surge in cases in America is believed to be linked to travellers from the tight-knit Jewish community visiting infected areas in Ukraine and Israel and returning home as carriers.



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Climate call: Arrests made at London protests ahead of Dublin march

Guy Falconbridge
LONDON

POLICE have arrested 290 people in two days of protests after climate-change activists blocked some of London's most important junctions including Oxford Circus and Marble Arch, causing traffic chaos.

The protests, led by climate group Extinction Rebellion, brought parts of central London to a standstill again. And tomorrow they have pledged to target the Tube network.

Extinction Rebellion, which generated headlines with a semi-nude protest in the House of Commons earlier this month, is demanding the UK government reduces greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025.

Police said they expected the demonstrations to continue in the coming weeks and had to strike the right balance between allowing the right to peaceful protest while ensur-



'Time to panic': Activist Greta Thunberg has called on politicians to take climate action urgently PHOTO: GETTY

ing disruption was kept at a minimum.

The organisation told the *Irish Independent* that it was planning to carry out a disruptive protest in Dublin city centre on Good Friday at 1pm.

"We will gather at the Spire at 1pm and continue with a very slow march over O'Connell Bridge. We will take the

march down to a 'no move march' and we will stay on O'Connell Bridge for as long as it takes to get a response from the Government," said spokesman Ciaran O'Carroll.

"We won't be blocking the Luas or emergency vehicles but we will be blocking road traffic.

"We have people prepared

to stay there for as long as it takes."

Meanwhile, Swedish teenage environmental activist Greta Thunberg addressed European politicians in Strasbourg and told them that now is the time "to panic".

The 16-year-old told EU leaders in Strasbourg: "I want you to act as if the house is on fire."

She said that "if our house was falling apart, you wouldn't hold three emergency Brexit summits and no emergency summit regarding the breakdown of the climate and environment".

During a speech met with a standing ovation, Greta fought back tears as she warned about rapid species extinctions, soil erosion, deforestation and ocean pollution.

In a reference to the international funding effort launched to rebuild the fire-ravaged Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris, she urged MEPs and officials to use "cathedral thinking" to tackle climate change.

Work-based health plans don't cut sick days or boost productivity

Alex Matthews King
LONDON

WORKPLACE wellness programmes which aim to help employees stay fit, healthy and – crucially – productive, do not reduce sick days, staff turnover or improve job performance, a major trial has found.

For the first time, researchers, led by Harvard Medical School, have conducted a comprehensive trial to test the effects of diet advice, fitness coaching and mental health schemes offered by many businesses.

It found that employers with a wellness programme had more employees taking part in regular exercise and actively managing their weight.

But evidence of benefits in the areas which matter most to employers, and their profit margins, was scarce.

"Our findings show that health behaviours can respond to a workplace wellness programme, but they also temper expectations of realising large returns on investment in the short term," said Dr Zirui Song, lead author of the study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Wellness schemes have

boomed in recent years, stimulated in part by tech companies like Facebook which see gym memberships, catering and entertainment perks as a way of retaining top talent.

Increasing awareness of long hours and high-pressure jobs driving employee burn-out, and cutting into time for recreation, exercise and family life have seen other employers follow suit.

In the US, where 80pc of large organisations and around half of midsize employers offer such schemes, health initiatives are also seen as a way to cut the cost of long-term illness borne by employer-funded health insurance.

To test if they were having a positive effect, the Harvard team used data from 160 different employers and around 33,000 employees. It picked 20 sites at random, with 4,037 employees in all, to act as a test group where wellness programmes were in place.

These employees were given eight learning modules on eating well, getting active and stress reduction and were supported by dietitians and an employee wellness provider over 18 months.

Apart from the increased exercise and weight loss, the study found no significant effects in 80 different areas. (© Independent News Service)

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Russia to pull plug on global internet access

Oliver Carroll

RUSSIAN lawmakers have passed the third reading of a controversial bill designed to create a fully autonomous local internet.

Dismissing criticism that the bill represented pulling the plug on the global internet, more than two-thirds of deputies voted in favour in yesterday's vote.

The bill now passes to its next, largely pro-forma stages – discussion in the upper house on April 22 and then presidential approval soon thereafter.

Officially described as a bill

to enable the "reliable" functioning of the Russian internet in the case of an "attack" from abroad, the new law is seen by some as a first stage towards creating a Chinese-style fire-wall.

The measures introduced legislate to divert Russian internet traffic through pre-approved exchange points and to force ISPs to install new network equipment with the aim of restricting anonymity.

The law would also build up a parallel domain name system to allow the Russian internet to function independently in the event it is cut off. (© Independent News Service)



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Paschal Donohoe

Our economy must be built to stay strong when inevitable external shocks hit home

28

Sinead Ryan

Baby steps are not enough on parental leave

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Comment

Faith in the FAI can only be restored if it drops its evasive tactics and is open about governance change

Colette Browne



WHILE John Delaney was staying at the Ritz Carlton in New York and Dubai, the Irish women's team was denied kit for international matches.

In April 2017, members of the senior women's international team made the unprecedented decision to hold a press conference to publicly speak about their dissatisfaction with their treatment by the FAI.

A group of 13 players spoke about how some had been forced to give up their places on the team as they were denied remuneration for international fixtures and couldn't afford the financial hit of taking time off work to travel abroad.

Most damningly, the FAI would not even pay for tracksuits for players.

Women were forced to change out of their gear in the public toilets of airports and hand them back so they could be used by other teams.

"We are looking for the basics. In the past, we have been getting changed in public toilets on the way to matches. This just highlights the lack of respect. It's not a lot we are looking for, just the basics," said Áine O'Gorman at the time.

Imagine if those players had known what we know now.

That a couple of months before they made the difficult decision to go public, Mr Delaney had used his work credit card to pay a €4,474 bill for a stay at the five-star Ritz Carlton in Dubai.

According to the 'Sunday Times', Mr Delaney was a fan of the Ritz. He stayed at the same hotel in New York in December 2015 at a cost of €8,018 to the FAI.

The former FAI CEO also reportedly used his FAI credit card to make cash

withdrawals of €6,000, pay executive dry cleaning bills of €500 and pay a €400 charge at a Hilfiger store in just six months in 2016.

Yesterday, Kerry League chairman John O'Regan, a long-time supporter of Mr Delaney, downplayed the details of Mr Delaney's credit card expenses as merely "a perk of the job".

"Credit cards are the ruination of a lot of people, I am sure there is none of us that haven't, at some time, overspent on our credit card and we paid it back. John overspent on his credit card and to the best of my knowledge he paid it back," he told Seán O'Rourke on RTE Radio.

The truth is we don't know whether Mr Delaney repaid some of these charges or not, because neither Mr Delaney nor the FAI has commented on them.

However, it would be extremely interesting to hear a defence of how reservations at the Ritz could be justified for someone on a €360,000 salary, while female players were being denied "perks" as basic as tracksuits and gym membership.

That justification will now be made as part of an external investigation, by auditing firm Mazars, into the finances of the FAI.

CEO of Sport Ireland John Treacy yesterday confirmed he expected an interim report on those finances in six to eight weeks but warned the final report could take "quite a while" to complete.

The most odious aspect of the stories that have emerged about the FAI in the past month has been the evasive position adopted by senior members of the organisation when legitimate questions have been asked.

Fans, many of whom take out credit union loans to travel to support teams, and players, who have been forced to subsist on meagre wages and endure sub-

standard facilities, deserve answers.

Regrettably, those answers have not been forthcoming. Instead players, fans and the public have been treated with contempt by an organisation which has preferred to circle the wagons rather than engage in transparency.

The nadir came last week when senior members of the FAI board appeared at the Oireachtas Sports Committee and were unable to answer basic questions, while Mr Delaney, having read a pre-prepared statement, remained mute for legal reasons throughout the eight-hour hearing.

A week later, we still don't know who signed off on a press release which stated, incorrectly, that the entire board had been

organisation, as failing to keep adequate records can amount to a category one criminal offence, with a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and fines of up to €500,000.

Given the detail of what has emerged in recent weeks, serious questions need to be asked not just about the FAI but about the oversight of the organisation.

Did enough pressure come to bear on the FAI to improve its corporate governance standards in return for grant money from Sport Ireland? Should sports ministers, latterly Shane Ross, have attempted to exert more pressure to ensure there were term limits for board members, some of whom have been in situ for up to 15 years?

TDs and senators, who seemed flummoxed by Mr Delaney's refusal to answer questions at the Oireachtas committee last week, should also be asked why they didn't simply ask him to leave instead of enduring the charade of his silent appearance.

The Oireachtas committee had no power to force Mr Delaney to answer questions, but it could have saved some face by at least telling him to sling his hook when it became apparent that he had no intention of responding to any of its queries.

According to the latest Irish Sports Monitor in 2017, 4.1pc of the population aged over 16 play soccer – down from 4.8pc in 2015.

A crisis in confidence in the FAI will necessarily lead to a further drop in those who opt to participate in the sport.

Now that a rock has been lifted on some of the practices at the FAI, a light must be shone on whatever is found underneath and changes made to ensure corporate governance is beyond reproach. It is the only way that faith, from fans and players alike, can be restored.

Answers haven't been forthcoming. Players, fans and the public have been treated with contempt by an organisation that preferred to circle the wagons rather than engage in transparency

made aware of Mr Delaney's €100,000 bridging loan to his employers in 2017.

We are also none the wiser about how an organisation with an annual turnover of €50m could have gotten into a financial position so perilous that a €100,000 loan from its CEO was required to ensure it could pay its bills.

What we do know now, however, is that its auditor, Deloitte, has taken the extraordinary step of filing a notice with the Company Registration Office stating that adequate accounting records were not kept by the FAI.

This seriously ups the ante for the



Our economy must be built to stay strong when inevitable external shocks hit home

Paschal Donohoe



YESTERDAY I published the Government's annual update of its Stability Programme. In the coming weeks, all member states of the European Union will formally submit their updates to the European Commission. It is a vehicle through which member states take stock of the latest economic and budgetary developments in their countries and update their projections accordingly.

In an Irish context, it is worthwhile taking stock over a longer timeframe. This week marks exactly a decade since the Fianna Fáil-led government of the time presented an emergency Budget that slashed spending and increased taxes because of its shocking mismanagement of the economy.

The decade-long journey we have undertaken since then has undoubtedly been difficult but the economy has been transformed. The public finances have stabilised, we are close to full employment, progress is being made in improving our public services and our economy is one of the fastest growing in the EU.

Last year, the national accounts moved into surplus – albeit a small surplus – for the first time since 2007 and, as outlined in the Stability Programme, the Government is targeting a headline surplus of 0.2pc of national income for this year.

We will achieve this while at the same time increasing capital investment by 22pc this year. This and future investment will provide for new homes, schools, primary care centres and major roads, and



Transformed: Dublin Port coming to life just before dawn. Building on our successes is vital to sustaining a resilient economy

make fundamental improvements to the well-being of our communities and citizens.

Of course, public expenditure must be sustainable. Between 2015 – soon after we emerged from the bailout – and now, expenditure has increased by just under 25pc. In the bubble period from 2004-2009, the growth rate of public expenditure was 55pc. So what we are doing now is ensuring moderate, sustainable increases in expenditure that are affordable while also meeting the huge social needs that emerged after a long period of austerity.

The transformation of the public

Our priority must be to build up our resilience through ensuring budgetary measures are sustainable

finances is rivalled only by the transformation in the labour market. The Stability Programme shows an average unemployment rate of 5.4pc for this year; as recently as 2012 our unemployment rate was around 16pc. To put it another way, 398,700 jobs have been created since 2011; an incredible pace of job creation. Behind these figures are transformed lives.

The key message in the Stability Programme is that we cannot rest on our laurels. The economy is undoubtedly in a good position at present but there are challenges also. Some of these are domestic.

The rapid growth in employment has

created bottlenecks, most importantly in relation to housing and the provision of public services such as healthcare, all of which can be a real source of anxiety for people in their daily lives.

The Government has been to the fore in addressing these and, while progress is being made, there is clearly more that needs to be done.

There are also challenges on the external front. Whatever shape it takes, the UK's likely exit from the European Union will be damaging for the Irish economy.

There will be direct effects such as lost economic output and trade. But there will also be indirect effects such as the loss, from the union, of a pro-trade, economically liberal, large member state which shares many of our values and principles.

I have just returned from the IMF spring meetings in Washington where the overwhelming sense was that global economic conditions have deteriorated since last autumn. In Ireland, we cannot be immune from this.

Our priority must be to build up our resilience through ensuring that budgetary measures are financed by revenue streams that are sustainable into the future, that budgetary policy is more strategic, public debt is reduced and the Rainy Day Fund is built up. This will enable us to absorb economic shocks if, and when, they undoubtedly occur.

In conclusion, our economy is growing strongly and sustainably due to our responsible management of expenditure and public finances. Our priority must be to build on the success of the past few years, to continue to invest in our public services and, as a small and highly globalised economy, to enhance our resilience to withstand external shocks, if, and when, they come.

Paschal Donohoe TD is Minister for Finance and for Public Expenditure and Reform

NOTEBOOK

Sinead Ryan

Baby steps are not enough on parental leave



THERE'S been a bit of grief following the revelation that just 38pc of new fathers are taking their paternity leave entitlement.

Although Social Protection Minister Regina Doherty professed herself "delighted" at the take-up after the scheme was introduced, it means that in reality almost two-thirds of families



are not availing of it. This compares badly with places like Iceland, where 91pc do, Quebec (86pc) and France (80pc).

The EU is set to introduce a compulsory 10-day leave period for all new fathers, so our two weeks already compares favourably, especially given the six EU countries (including Germany) which don't offer leave at all.

What is the intransigence among Irish dads? These days they're all hands-on, I'd say upwards of 90pc of them attend their child's birth, they're a dab hand with the nappies and night feeds and, most importantly, want to be far more involved than their own fathers were. The UK, which has an utterly dismal record (just 2pc of dads take paternity leave), cites a lack of information about what's available and a huge stigma about not being taken seriously by their employer if they hop off on 'holiday' to mind their kids.

Women, of course, have faced this for decades. Even though it is now technically unlawful for employers to say anything but "brilliant" when you announce you're pregnant, there's buckets of anecdotal evidence, especially in smaller companies, showing bosses are not only dismayed

at the thought of a female employee disappearing for the best part of a year, but are actively managing their recruitment methods to avoid taking them on in the first place if they are of child-bearing possibilities.

I was the victim of it myself many moons ago, with it being made clear in no uncertain terms that anything more than 16 weeks off would be considered an indulgence.

Britain's 'Share the Joy' campaign to encourage dads' leave had a glaring flaw, which opponents point to in its failure. It requires mothers to give up part of their maternity leave to be shared with dad. In other words, his rights to care for his children are at his partner's behest, rather than statutory.

Yet a Swedish study found that for every month a father took leave to care for children, his partner's long-term earnings rose by 6.7pc as she returned to work earlier.

We need junior taxpayers. The country's ageing population means that while there are five taxpayers supporting every pensioner in 2019, this reduces dramatically to just 2:1 by 2050 (just when today's young parents are retiring).

That, of course, is unsustainable,

as countries like Italy and France have already discovered. The French responded by paying families to have a third child, the Nordics by extending paid parental leave for a year and supplementing child care.

We are taking baby steps, excuse the pun, but they are too few and too slow. We are learning to crawl while other countries are at the top of the climbing frame.

When will the time come, do you think, that women bearing children are seen as the asset they are, underpinning the future economy rather than being viewed as a drain upon it?

When will it be OK for every dad to automatically involve themselves in that, and every employer to be far-sighted enough to make the financial link between its future pension responsibilities and today's short-term support?

We're not the best by a long shot. Admittedly, we're not the worst either.

One newspaper ran a story headlined, "Top investment banker actually took all his paternity leave for once".

It wasn't a parody; it was the 'Wall Street Journal'. And it was in 2016.



Irish Independent

EDITORIAL

NOTRE-DAME REMINDS US HOPE CAN RISE FROM ASHES

HEARTS sank a little as the first images of orange flames licking over the roof of Notre-Dame emerged.

One does not expect to grieve for a building, but Notre-Dame has its place in the soul of Europe.

For a while, it seemed like the fragility of civilisation seemed to be carried in the plumes of smoke billowing from the ancient cathedral.

As its spire crashed into the inferno, it looked as if the Gothic masterpiece of resilience would be lost to us for ever. And what a loss that would have been.

In the wake of the French Revolution, the cathedral was declared a “Temple of Reason” as part of an anticlerical movement.

In fact, all of its original bells were destroyed, except for one – strangely enough called Emmanuel. It rang out calling on Parisians to celebrate the end of World War II.

Thanks to heroic efforts, the cathedral will be returned to us, though it may take decades.

At a time when Europe is more fractured than united, it was reassuring to see so many rally to save the Grande Dame.

Within hours of the blaze starting, hundreds of millions were pledged towards its restoration.



These old links to previous times still can be stepping stones to the future

It also seemed fitting when the totem of faith in the City of Light was in peril, that the president of the European Council, Donald Tusk, should issue an appeal not to “give in to fatalism”.

Commenting on division in Europe, he said the UK’s departure from the EU should not be seen as inevitable.

“I didn’t respond at the time. But today in front of you I would like to say at this rather difficult moment in our history, that we need the dreamers and dreams.

“We cannot give in to fatalism. At least, I will not stop dreaming about a better and united Europe,” said Mr Tusk.

And visiting Dublin yesterday, Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the US House of Representatives, also reminded us not to be careless in opening divisions, and to cherish legacies from our past.

She also warned a trade deal between the US and the UK could be imperilled if there was any undermining of the Good Friday Agreement.

“The Good Friday accords ended 700 years of conflict. This is not a treaty only, it’s an ideal, it’s a value, it’s something that’s a model to the world, something that we all take pride in,” she said.

“Values”, relationships, and ties with previous generations are often only appreciated when they have been taken away through carelessness or failure to appreciate them.

These old links to previous troubled times still can be stepping stones to the future.

So the world will breathe a sigh of relief that Paris has not lost its symbol of hope and an icon of faith.

As Victor Hugo put it: “If you ask the great city, ‘Who is this person?’, she will answer, ‘He is my child.’” The great city can cherish its Grande Dame for future generations and the rest of the world will be richer for it.

Not for the first time, hope will rise from ashes in Europe and something precious will be rebuilt.

Letters



Write to Letters to the Editor, Irish Independent, 27/32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1, or email them to independent.letters@independent.ie. Name and address must be supplied for verification. Lengthy contributions may be edited.

Vote No in the divorce poll to avoid more shattered homes

IN THE referendum next month, we will be asked to facilitate more liberal divorce laws. We will also be asked to pave the way for the recognition of divorces granted abroad.

We already have in our country too many victims of shattered households. Those of us who are involved with homeless services, youth support or societies like St Vincent de Paul, are all too aware of the heartache and confusion caused by divorce and the fragmentation of families.

Every marriage worthy of the name has to try to withstand the storms of life; it is more than just a fair-weather relationship.

My family and I will be voting No.

Eamon Fitzpatrick
Strandhill Road, Sligo

Tiger has ability to captivate and transcends sport of golf

VERY rarely in sport, or in life for that matter, does one person command as much attention as Tiger Woods has in the last week.

The two sports closest to my heart, tennis and football, were relegated to the back benches for 48 hours or so as Tiger Woods made – and if Heineken was to claim it you would have to agree – probably the greatest

comeback in the history of sport.

A couple of years back, I wrote that Leicester City winning the Premier League was the greatest achievement by an underdog in sport, but the Masters in Augusta produced something really special and memorable. Even those of us who don’t follow golf took an interest.

Could Tiger really win another major – and the major of majors, the Masters, at that? While many pundits predicted it was going to be Rory McIlroy’s year to erase bad memories in pursuit of the elusive green jacket, those of us who follow the history of sport intrepidly wondered was it just possible that the player once dubbed the greatest of them all could win big again.

He did and without going into his roll of honour, it’s obvious that only Jack Nicklaus’s haul of 18 majors to Tiger’s 15 to date is preventing universal declaration of Greatest Of All Time when you look at his achievements.

One that stands out for me is that he is the only golfer in history to have held all four majors at the same time in 2000/2001 – the Tiger slam.

But back to the present day and we are living in a tremendous sporting era of Usain Bolt, Tiger, Michael Phelps, Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Serena Williams, Katie Taylor, etc.

Some people transcend their sport and this achievement puts Tiger Woods up there with that other icon who, before he matured, said that “Image is everything”, namely Andre Agassi.

Long may sporting giants set the standards of achievement that we all aspire to.

Mike Geraghty
Newcastle, Galway

RTÉ’s gripping news agenda misses the real burning issue

TUNING into ‘Six One’ news on RTÉ on Monday evening the top story was the news that FAI executive vice president John Delaney is to step aside.

This was followed by other items on a delay of sorts on the National Broadband Plan being brought to Cabinet. After seven years’ gestation, I don’t think that’s much to get excited about.

Meanwhile, over in Paris the truly sad news that Notre-Dame Cathedral, the most famous building in all Christendom, was going up in flames. Still nothing on ‘Six One’ about the unfolding story in Paris.

Onwards to a break over at ‘Six One’ and next up the first international news story about a woman who broke into Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago retreat appearing in court. Gripping stuff, while in Paris it looks

like, thanks to the live pictures on almost every news channel around the world, Notre-Dame Cathedral is burning to the ground.

It’s great to see that our taxpayer-funded national news channel is on top of its game.

John McLoughlin
Ballisodare, Co Sligo

Aussie rugby star is in no position to cast the first stone

ISRAEL FOLAU, the 30-year-old Australian rugby player and devout Christian, said on his Instagram account on social media last week that “hell awaits” for “drunks, homosexuals, adulterers, liars, fornicators, thieves, atheists, idolators”.

A few years back, the Wallabies full-back revealed he drank and partied to excess in his time in the NRL, particularly after moving from the Melbourne Storm to the Brisbane Broncos in 2009.

“I got caught up in all the party things and I guess I’d say my head was above the clouds. It got really bad,” Folau said.

“I just got caught up in the alcohol, women and all that sort of stuff.”

Let he among us without sin cast the first stone, Israel – or else take a seat on the hell-bound bus!

Seamus McLoughlin
Keshcarrigan, Co Leitrim



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Published by Independent Newspapers (Ireland) Limited at their offices, 27-32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.

Printed at Citywest, Naas Road, Co Dublin **Telephone** 01 705 5333 **Fax** 01 872 0304

Advertising **Telephone** 1890 516516 Ad fax 01 7055533

Email info@independent.ie **Web** www.independent.ie

English edition printed by Trinity Mirror, Saint Albans Road, Watford, Hertfordshire WD24 7RG UK.

Spanish edition printed by Bermont Corporation, D.L: M-37441



Business

Kingspan to lift debt with €700m Belgian bid

Recticel offer a 'smart move'

Ellie Donnelly

KINGSPAN will likely use a mix of existing cash reserves and debt to fund a proposed €700m acquisition of two divisions of Belgian group Recticel.

The deal would tighten Kingspan's grip on the European insulation market, adding Recticel's manufacturing units in Belgium, France, Britain and Slovenia.

The company declined to say how it will fund the deal after confirming yesterday it had made an offer for the insulation and flexible foams division of the mattress manufacturing group.

However, analysts estimate that, should the deal go through, it will be funded through a mix of cash and debt equity.

If the deal goes ahead it is likely to nudge Kingspan's net debt to 1.6 times earnings on a pro forma basis, which is comfortably inside the Cavan-headquartered group's preference to keep debt below a multiple of two times its earnings.

In a brief statement Kingspan said it has already entered into an exclusive back-to-back agreement with a third party who will buy Recticel's flexible foams businesses, should the initial deal go ahead.

Recticel said the Insulation division had sales of €271.2m in 2018 and an adjusted EBITDA of €44.7m, and the Flexible Foams division had

sales of €621.5m and adjusted EBITDA of €41.5m.

Shares in the business were trading up almost 4pc yesterday, while Recticel's shares were suspended, having jumped over 20pc in early trading.

Flor O'Donoghue, analyst at Davy Stockbrokers, said the potential deal looked like a "smart move" for Kingspan, which would not be considered out of the unknown.

"This is consistent with Kingspan's strategy, the group likes to consolidate markets," Mr O'Donoghue said. "This gives the business direct access into France, a region it is not in at the moment."

He added that there is "probably a lot of hurdles to be jumped" before any deal is finalised.

Recticel's flexible foam business had sales of €621.5m in 2018, while it reported earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation, and amortisation (ebitda) of €33m in the division.

Meanwhile its insulation business, which Kingspan will hold on to, had sales of €271.2m and ebitda of €44.7m for the year.

Last year Kingspan – which is headed by CEO Gene Murtagh – spent €472.3m on acquisitions, including Synthesia Group, its first manufacturing presence in Southern Europe.

In 2018, Kingspan generated record income of almost €4.4bn and trading profit was €445.2m for the year.

Big spender:

Kingspan CEO Gene Murtagh has led European expansion



Stellar growth: JD Sports is UK's star performer on index

Sam Unsted

AT a time when Britain's shopping streets are getting emptier, it's perhaps surprising that the FTSE All-Share's best-performing stock since the turn of the century is a humble sportswear seller.

JD Sports Fashion shares have risen by 7,444pc since January 1, 2000, hitting a record yesterday after the retailer reported profit ahead of expectations.

The stock is by far the best performer on the FTSE All-Share Index over that period, with second-placed Diploma, a building components and seals maker, having returned a comparatively measly 4,200pc.

Bookmaker Paddy Power Betfair is in third, up about 3,800pc.

JD's growth is in contrast with the UK retail sector's struggles.

Sales in the financial year just ended were £4.72bn (£5.46bn), the company said yesterday, up from about £171m (£198m) in 2000.

That's been mirrored by its market value, now clearly above £5bn compared with about £60m at the turn of the century.

The retailer's winning formula has been based around stocking exclusive ranges from the likes of Adidas and Nike, enabling it to attract growing numbers of fashion-savvy customers.

It's now extending the formula to the rest of the

world, adding stores from Spain to Australia, while acquiring Finish Line in the US last year.

"Despite the challenging conditions on the high street, retailers who continue to thrive are those that have embraced change, invested in digital and listened to their customers to keep products fresh and desirable," Richard Lim, CEO at consultancy Retail Economics, wrote in a report.

'Retailers who continue to thrive are those that have embraced change'

"It's hard to think of such an impressive showing anywhere else in retail," Peel Hunt analyst Jonathan Pritchard said in a note.

He described the sports firm's sales and profit growth as "stellar", and sees no reason why it shouldn't continue.

Shore Capital analysts Greg Lawless and Clive Black also think there's more to come, saying the acquisition of Finish Line adds international growth potential to the equity story.

This means the shares remain attractive despite the rising multiples and deserve to trade at a premium to peers, they wrote.

Bloomberg



Retailers call for a super tax on

Charlie Weston

PERSONAL FINANCE EDITOR

INSURERS should have a super tax imposed on them if they fail to pass on cuts in premiums at a time when they are benefiting from reforms, a leading retailer representative body has said.

The Retail Grocery Dairy and Allied Trades Association (RGDATA) also called for solicitors that represent claimants in bogus and exaggerated court actions to face a mandatory referral to the new Legal Services Regulatory Authority.

Retailers are faced with closure because of the insurance



crisis, the body said. It called on the Government to tackle what it called vested interests – the legal sector and insurance firms.

RGDATA, which represents independent retailers, said emergency measures were








needed from the Government "to prevent further business closures due to high insurance costs". It proposed that the Government copy the approach taken to deal with bankers' bonuses by introducing a super tax on insurance firms' profits if premiums don't come down sharply.

RGDATA director general Tara Buckley said: "When bankers threatened to reintroduce bonuses for top staff at a time when many customers were struggling, the Government responded with a super tax which stopped bankers in their tracks." She said the prospect of a similar tax on

Cost control: RGDATA director general Tara Buckley wants radical reform



Business
India ramps up green energy spending
32

MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
	ISEQ		FTSE 100		STOXX 600		S&P 500
0.61%		0.44%		0.29%		0.13%	
6433.97		7469.92		389.21		2909.47	
							
							



Thriving: Exclusive Nike and Adidas ranges like those modelled by Justin Bieber's wife Hailey Baldwin in a campaign for JD Sports, have helped lift profits

premium-hiking insurers

insurers would compel them to adjust their behaviour. "At present, the insurers are benefiting from the reform but channelling their change into their shareholders' pockets rather than supporting their struggling policyholders. This has to stop now."

She said there was a need to impose responsibilities on solicitors taking injury claims. In light of changes requiring solicitors to verify the authenticity of asylum claims, similar measures should be imposed in personal injury cases.

"Some solicitors act as if they are spectators and disclaim any knowledge or responsibility when bogus or exaggerated claims are uncovered," she said. Solicitors should be compelled to put clients on proof of claims made and damages alleged.

And where a court throws out a case for being exaggerated or fraudulent, there should be a mandatory referral of the prosecuting solicitor to the Legal Services Regulatory Authority to determine if he or she breached their professional duties or were actively complicit in misleading a court and the business defending the claim, Ms Buckley said.

She said that it was clear that the insurance crisis will not be solved until the Government

Apartment residents to be offered on-site car-sharing

Gordon Deegan

RESIDENTS of a planned upmarket apartment block development in Foxrock in south Dublin will be able to avail of 'pay as you go driving' from five shared GoCar vehicles to be based at the address.

Last month, the Granville Partnership lodged plans with An Bord Pleanála for 142 build-to-rent apartments at Roselawn and Aberdour, Stillorgan Road, Foxrock.

In order to reduce the car dependency of the residents, GoCar Carsharing Ltd has confirmed to the appeals board that it intends to provide five shared vehicles for the development.

The firm is Ireland's leading car-sharing service with 40,000 members and 600 cars and vans across 18 counties.

Colm Brady, CEO of GoCar's parent, the Europcar Mobility Group, confirmed that GoCar is planning to locate its first vehicles in a new residential development this summer arising from an agreement with a developer and as part of the planning process.

He said that 30 different builders have made contact with his firm since the start of this year seeking letters of commitment from it to provide GoCars in their new residential developments.

"We have had more developers wanting to have in place GoCars in their developments in the first quarter of this year than throughout the whole of 2018," Mr Brady said.

He said developers will be able to use the availability of a GoCar in the marketing of their new developments while it allows to reduce the need to provide expensive and inefficient car spaces for each apartment.

Mr Brady said that the likes of Dublin City Council encouraging car-sharing in new developments "is a game-changer for us". Mr Brady said that 400 companies across the country are using GoCar's fleet.

He said that the firm has eight GoCars located around Barrow Street in Dublin's Silicon Docks to meet the demand of Google workers and other tech workers in that area.

Mr Brady said that GoCar has doubled each year for the past three years and it is his ambition to continue to double in size each year.

He said: "The number of new people signing up to our service each month is frightening. We are hitting a sweet spot with customers."



An artist's impression of the Foxrock apartments scheme

Irish Independent

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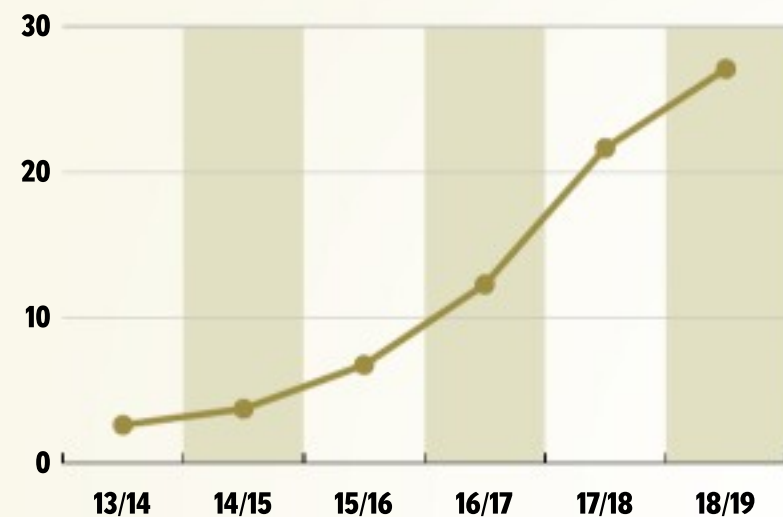
Sunshine states: India launches \$5bn renewables infrastructure drive to tackle pollution issues

Renewable energy in India

The energy hungry nation which receives twice as much sunshine as European countries, wants to make solar central to its renewable expansion as part of the fight against climate change by the world's third-biggest greenhouse gas emitter.

SOLAR POWER CAPACITY

In Gigawatts



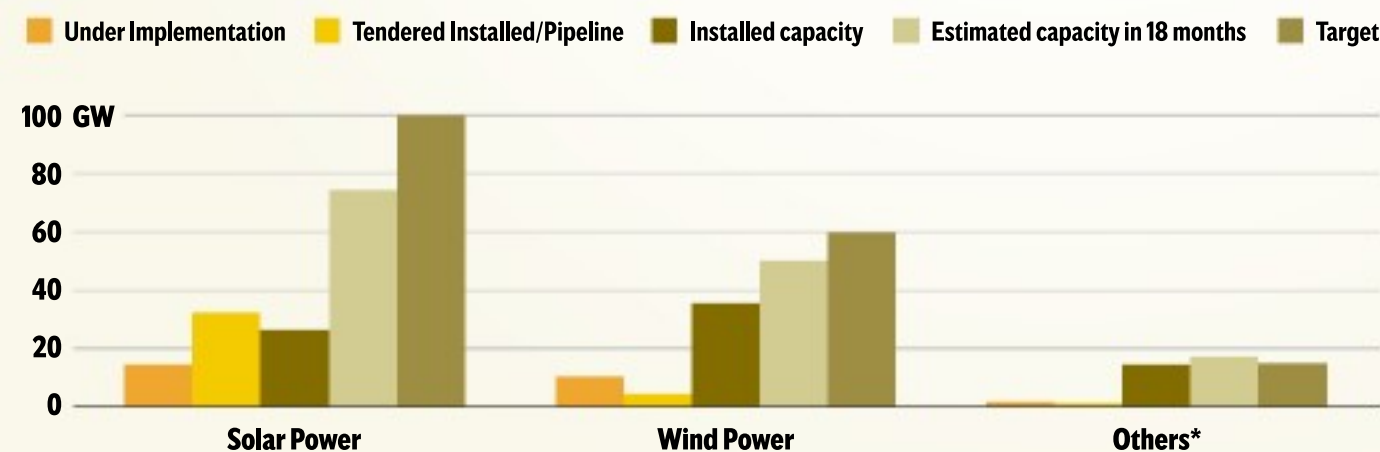
SOLAR POWER COST PER UNIT

In Indian rupees (INR) 1 USD = 68.87 INR



INDIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN

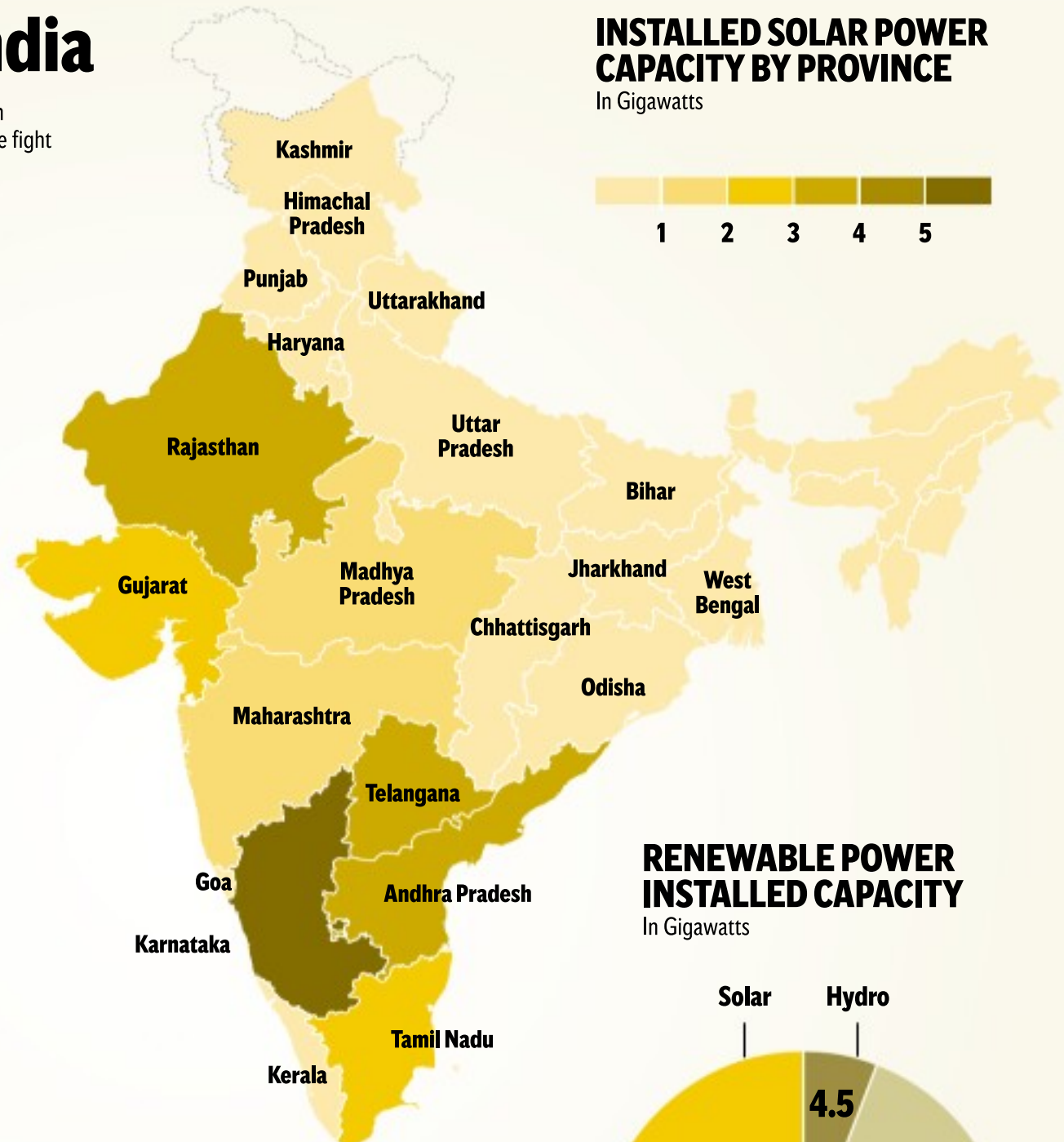
The Government says it is ahead of target in achieving 175 GW of installed renewable energy capacity



*Others include bio-energy, small hydro, hybrid

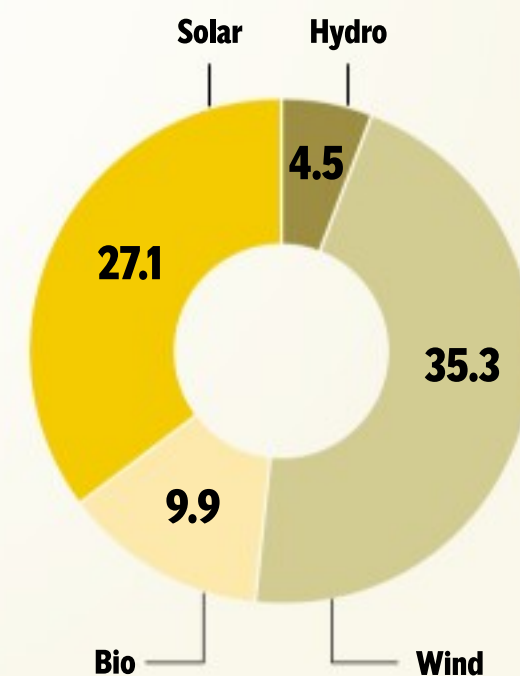
INSTALLED SOLAR POWER CAPACITY BY PROVINCE

In Gigawatts



RENEWABLE POWER INSTALLED CAPACITY

In Gigawatts



Sources: India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; Reuters

INDIA is lifting a target for renewables to 227 Gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2022 because the country is well on its way to exceeding the previously set target, vice president Venkaiah Naidu said.

The country had already indicated it will launch \$5bn (€4.43bn) of transmission-line tenders in phases, beginning in June, to route a targeted 175 gigawatts (GW) of power from renewable sources into the country's grid by 2022.

India, the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, has pledged to cut emissions and have clean energy account for at least 40pc of its installed capacity by 2030, up from 21.4pc now, while looking to manage its energy appetite as its pop-

ulation becomes more prosperous. The renewable energy targets would require investment in feeder lines and infrastructure upgrades.

India has awarded tenders for 12 GW of transmission lines since December, while bids for a further 16 GW will be launched by the end of June.

Another 38 GW will be out for bidding before March 2020, he said.

Building transmission lines for 66 GW worth projects would need an estimated investment of 430bn rupees, the secretary for renewables, Anand Kumar, said.

India receives twice as much sunshine as European countries and wants to make solar central to its renewable expansion as part of the fight against climate change.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

India wants clean energy to account for 40pc of needs

government has set a goal to raise solar power generation to 100 GW and wind to 60 GW by 2022. The other 15 GW would come from biomass and hydropower.

Research analysts have been sceptical about India meeting its ambitious targets.

Consultancy firm WoodMac and research firm CRISIL have said India would not meet its renewable energy target due to policy issues, including cancellations of auctions of tenders, rights to land use and tariffs.

But Kumar says the government must be careful not to buy power at any cost.

"The mandate of the government is that we should buy power at a competitive price which is affordable," he said.

The government is determined

to overcome roadblocks, and is in talks with states to ensure easy land availability. It has asked distribution companies to borrow from the government-run Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency to ensure timely payments to power producers.

Modi's government changed rules for the awarding of renewable energy projects in 2017, leading to higher competition, lower prices and greater acceptance of renewable energy.

"Earlier tariffs were about 6.17 rupees per unit and now we are getting bids as low as 2.44 rupees a unit," Kumar said, adding that India was ahead of its internal target to award 135 GW of renewable energy projects by March 2019.

Reuters



Food for thought: experts launch new agri study

Professor Paul McSweeney, vice-president of learning and teaching, UCC; Bridie Corrigan Matthews, network manager Taste 4 Success Skillnet; Tracey Donnelly, executive director at Skillnet Ireland; Dr Amy-Jane Troy, Food Industry Training Unit, School of Food and Nutritional Sciences, UCC; and Mary McCarthy Buckely, manager at the Food Industry Training Unit at UCC, gather to launch a new research study into the use of digital badges in the food and agri-food sectors in UCC.

Digital badges are an innovative solution to promoting and recognising upskilling within the sector.

PHOTO: DARRAGH KANE

Investors jumping into bonds, says BlackRock boss

Annie Massa

BLACKROCK rebounded from a rocky end of last year, as customers jumped into its fixed-income products and showed interest in illiquid alternatives.

The world's largest asset manager saw \$65bn (€57bn) in net inflows in the first quarter, the strongest total since 2017.

The results helped lift the New York-based firm's assets under management above \$6trn again after a drop amid market turmoil at the end of 2018. BlackRock saw clients put money to work, moving from cash to fixed income, CEO Larry Fink said in an interview on CNBC after the earnings report. "We're seeing huge excitement in fixed income," Mr Fink said.

BlackRock's fixed income products took in \$80bn in the first quarter, driving the com-

pany's \$59bn in long-term net flows. Investors have shown renewed interest in bonds since Federal Reserve officials signalled this year that an increase in rates is on hold.

The pause came after many traders were instead position-

'We're seeing huge excitement in fixed income'

ing for a stretch of hikes.

The strength in BlackRock's fixed income business and \$6.8bn in alternatives flows helped mute the impact of investors pulling \$26bn out of its equity products.

Mr Fink said in the interview that investors haven't rushed back into equities even as the stock market bounced back this year. "There are huge

pools of money sitting on the sidelines," he said on an earnings call.

BlackRock's iShares division is the largest global issuer of exchange-traded funds and a key piece of its business.

The asset manager often points to fixed-income ETFs as a source of future growth for the industry. Its fixed-income exchange-traded products brought in \$32bn in the first quarter, offsetting \$1.6bn in outflows from equity ETFs. iShares saw flows of \$30.7bn overall in the period, down from a record \$81bn.

BlackRock is recovering from 2018, when it saw its share price drop 24pc and confronted three straight quarters of institutional outflows. In the first quarter, it reversed that trend and gathered institutional inflows of \$29.1bn.

Bloomberg

Fishing wages averaged €44,000 last year

Ellie Donnelly

ASIA has surpassed the UK as Ireland's second biggest export market for seafood.

Exports to Asia totalled €96m last year, compared with €81m shipped to the UK.

Higher value delicacies including Irish oysters and shellfish are driving Asian growth, and pointing to massive growth for farmed Irish seafood, Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)'s latest Business of Seafood report shows.

The EU, excluding the UK, bought €373m of Irish fish last year. The marine sector is an important source of employment in coastal economies.

Average pay for crew on boats over 12 metres was €44,000 in 2018.

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Turkey risks unrest over call for new Istanbul poll

Selcan Hacaoglu and Firat Kozok

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's party has officially called for a new election in Istanbul, raising the prospect of renewed political turmoil just as the government sought to shore up confidence in the economy and avert a showdown with the US over missiles.

The AK Party submitted an "extraordinary objection" to the election board yesterday while a partial recount of the votes in some districts was under way. It alleged irregularities tainted the results of the March 31 vote that put an opposition candidate ahead in the mayoral race.

Mr Erdogan held the post of Istanbul mayor in the 1990s and his refusal to concede defeat has been condemned by political opponents as another attack on Turkey's democratic foundations.

It's also rattled investors in the region's biggest economy, with the lira down 0.3pc against the dollar on Tuesday. "Even if the High Election Board rejects this request, the



damage to Turkey's reputation is already done," said Tim Ash, senior strategist at BlueBay Asset Management in London.

These are testing political and economic times for Turkey, and Mr Erdogan is struggling to contain the fallout after 17 years in power.

The economy entered its first recession in a decade following a currency crash last year and the International Monetary Fund predicts it will contract by more than 2pc.

Mr Erdogan's position as leader is intact, but he unexpectedly lost control of Turkey's largest cities in local

Tensions: Republican People's Party (CHP) mayoral candidate, Ekrem Imamoglu, waves to the crowd during a rally in Istanbul

elections. Ties with the US, meanwhile, are at their worst since at least the 1970s in part because of Turkey's decision to purchase Russian missiles.

The government in Ankara said it was forced to turn to Russia for protection against aerial attacks after Washington balked for years at selling it Patriot missile defence systems.

The US says the Russian missile shield was designed to shoot down American and allied aircraft.

Treasury and Finance Minister Berat Albayrak, Mr Erdogan's son-in-law, said Turkey has taken its case for buying a Russian air-defence system directly to US President Donald Trump to defuse tensions. He told reporters on Monday there was "quite positive feedback".

Washington has threatened to impose sanctions and to expel Turkey from the F-35 allied defence programme, moves that would likely intensify market turmoil, as happened during a diplomatic standoff last year.

Bloomberg



The industrial and commercial park in Artane, Dublin 5

Cairn lines up Butterly Business Park sell-off

Donal O'Donovan

CAIRN is seeking a buyer for the seven-and-a-half acre Butterly Business Park in Artane, Dublin 5, where the anchor tenants are Lidl, Mr Price, and Maxol/Centra.

The industrial and commercial park was the site of the former Stardust nightclub where 48 people were killed and 214 injured during a tragic St Valentine's Day disco in 1981.

Agents Quinn Agnew are understood to be guiding €16.5m for the scheme.

Butterly Business Park is currently producing a gross rent of approximately €1.4m a year from a mix of retail, leisure, office and storage.

The site includes develop-

ment assets as well as vacant units that extend to around 70,000 sq ft.

The overall property extends to approximately 160,000 sq ft (14,865 sq m) on a site of approximately 7.4 acres.

Retail tenants pay 63pc of total rents, led by Lidl's €500,000 a year, and followed by Mr Price on €185,000 and Centra/Musgrave on €165,000.

The balance of rents are a mix of warehousing, storage and leisure and offices.

Rental income from a telecommunications mast adds €20,000 a year. The park is on Beaumont Road, opposite Artane Castle Shopping Centre and close to the M1 motorway and the M50/M1 motorway junction.

Markets

DUBLIN PRICES

TOPTEN STOCKS

Company	€	CHG	%Chg	VolTraded
CRH	29.61	0.33	1.13	928800
Ryanair	12.18	0.20	1.67	1825648
Kerry	97.30	-0.70	-0.71	134938
Aryzta	1.21	-0.04	-2.82	157529
Bofl	5.96	-0.10	-1.57	1771649
Smurfit Kappa	26.75	0.05	0.19	508306
Paddy Power	75.04	1.42	1.93	61610
Glanbia	17.31	-0.21	-1.20	308948
C&C	3.38	0.04	1.20	192255
Kingspan	45.84	1.30	2.92	361113

COMPANY	€	CHG	COMPANY	€	CHG
Abbey	14.50	0.00	Dalata	6.12	0.13
Allied Irish Banks	4.22	0.00	Datalex	0.80	-0.05
C&C	3.38	0.04	FBD	8.72	0.02
CPL	6.60	-0.05	First Derivatives	25.80	0.00

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

COMPANY	PRICE	CHG	COMPANY	PRICE	CHG
Abbott Lab	77.70	0.20	Bostn Sci	35.96	-1.86
AbbVie	81.13	0.10	Coca-Cola	46.92	-0.08
Activision Blizzard	45.13	-0.63	CRH	33.33	0.22
AIG	46.34	0.54	Ericsson	9.64	-0.02
Allergan	145.70	2.12	Exxon	81.01	0.36
Amarin	18.57	0.22	Facebook	179.59	-0.06
Amazon	1861.10	16.23	M&T Bank	167.69	3.97
Apple	199.98	0.75	General Electric	9.09	0.11

COMMODITIES

	\$ price today	\$ price yesterday
Copper	6480	6484
Lead	1954	1925
Zinc	2900	2928
Tin	20575	20625
Aluminium	1865	1863

ALL BOND INDEX 114.97

COMPANY	€	CHG	COMPANY	€	CHG
Glanbia	17.31	-0.21	Permanent TSB	1.30	0.02
Green REIT	1.70	0.06	Petroneft	0.01	0.00
Hibernia REIT	1.37	0.00	T Produce	1.59	-0.01
IFG Group	2.16	0.00			
INM	0.10	0.00			
Irish Residential Properties REIT	1.59	0.01			
Irish Cont	5.01	0.01			
Kingspan	45.84	1.30			
Mincon	1.27	0.00			
Origin Ent	5.48	0.04			
Pdy Power	75.04	1.42			

COMPANY	€	CHG	COMPANY	€	CHG
Dalata	6.12	0.13	Kenmare	2.32	0.00
Datalex	0.80	-0.05	Ormonde	0.04	-0.01
FBD	8.72	0.02	Ovoca	0.09	0.00
First Derivatives	25.80	0.00	Providence	0.15	0.00

COMPANY	PRICE	CHG	COMPANY	PRICE	CHG
Google	1225.53	4.43	Oracle	54.73	0.10
Goldman Sachs	201.19	1.28	Pfizer	41.61	-0.49
Hewlett P	20.55	0.35	Ryanair	79.17	1.07
IBM	145.04	1.14	TrinBio	2.86	0.09
Icon	136.04	-0.94	Twitter	34.62	-0.10
Intel	57.23	0.95			
Microsoft	121.14	0.09			
Novartis	79.97	-0.99			

LONDON PRICES

COMPANY	GBP	CHG
Abbey	1235.00	0.00
Aminex	1.15	-0.10
Bofl (Eur)	5.96	-0.07
Cairn Homes	1.36	0.02
Conroy	6.13	0.00
CRH	2549.00	29.00
DCC	6956.00	58.00
Glanbia (Eur)	17.34	-0.13
Grafton Group	905.50	16.00
Greencore	217.60	4.20
INM (Eur)	0.09	0.00
Karelian	2.65	0.00
Kenmare	198.25	-3.00
Smurfit Kappa	2319.00	20.00
Tullow	240.50	-0.80
UDG Healthcare	646.50	5.50
C&C	3.36	0.00
Ryanair	12.20	0.32
Kerry	97.15	-0.40

IRISH INTEREST

Celtic FC	162.50	0.00
First Deriv	3140.00	10.00
Pers Gold	0.23	0.00
Petrel Res	1.25	0.00

FT100 SHARES

AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE		
BAE Systems	509.80	5.80
Rolls Royce	901.20	10.20
Smiths Grp	1536.50	15.00
BANKS		
Barclays	167.40	-0.28
HSBC	662.80	6.90
Lloyds TSB	65.84	0.67

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

MARKET EURO	Close	Previous
HK Dir	8.8521	8.8615
Can. Dir	1.50725	15096
Aus. Dir	1.57376	1.5758
NZ Dir	1.6704	1.6714
Sing. Dir	1.5285	1.5294
Czech Kr	25.659	25.637
Pol. Zl	4.2732	4.2745
Hung. For	319.83	320.33
Turk. Lira	6.5043	6.5634

COMPANY	GBP	CHG
RBOS	262.50	0.00
Stan Chart	672.60	1.60
Diageo	3117.50	-3.00
Johnson Mat	3400.00	16.00
Reckitt Benc	5874.00	51.00
Persimmon	2348.00	36.00
BT Group	229.90	2.55
Morrison W	222.90	-1.50
Sainsbury	231.20	-2.90
Tesco	249.70	0.40
AB Food	2529.00	-12.00
Tate & Lyle	737.20	2.20
Unilever	4372.00	26.00
Nat Grid	819.10	-1.30
Kingfisher	259.50	3.70
M & S	281.50	2.70

COMPANY	GBP	CHG
Next	5732.00	44.00
Smith Nph	1489.00	7.50
Brit Airways	553.00	9.60
Aviva	426.30	7.60
Lgl & Gen	289.40	1.90
Prudential	1748.50	46.50
Stan Life	274.80	3.00
ITV	134.15	1.80
Pearson	825.00	-10.80
Reed Els	1668.50	20.00
WPP	909.60	24.40
Ang Amer	2176.00	11.00
Antofagasta	1002.50	0.00
BHP Billiton	334.00	4.00
Kazakhmys	723.80	11.60
Lonmin	69.30	0.30
Rio Tinto	4672.50	-30.00
Glencore Xstrata	334.00	4.00
Vodafone	142.60	0.10
BP	568.10	-1.80
Cairn Energy	166.00	-0.30
Ryl D Shell A	2468.00	0.00
Royal & Sun	543.00	5.00

TOURIST EURO	Buying	Selling
UK	0.88	0.83
US	1.16	1.09
Canada	1.55	1.46
Sweden	10.78	10.16
Denmark	7.68	7.24
Switzerland	1.16	1.09
Australia	1.62	1.53

COMPANY	GBP	CHG
AstraZeneca	6015.00	21.00
GlaxoSmith	1554.80	4.80
Brit Land	609.00	2.20
Hamrsn	336.10	2.40
Land Secs	933.20	6.40
Liberty Intl	102.05	-1.20
Sage Group	711.60	3.20
Capita	129.45	3.05
Compass	1725.50	-28.00
Br Am Tob	3127.00	3.50
Imperial	2503.00	-12.00
Carnival	4046.00	62.00
Interc Htl	4879.00	40.00
Whitbread	4831.00	-4.00



Back on top Tiger Woods is the latest star to join the ranks of comeback kids **p36**

+ Going it alone If Cheryl doesn't need a man to have a baby, who does? **p37**



Lifestyle

On the ball: Mai and Frank Quaid, both avid golfers, had to work through an adjustment period after retirement.

PHOTO: MARK CONDREN



How to deal with your adult kids

Whether you shed a tear when the kids leave the nest or open a bottle of bubbly, once the fledglings have finally flown, it's the start of a whole new relationship.

In their booklet, *Rewire Don't Retire*, Marianne Heron and Paul Britton offer the following tips for dealing with adult children after retirement.

- Best advice ever is to keep your door open and your mouth shut.
- Keep the apron strings untied. Treat your offspring with respect.
- Advice is like a second helping: something that is asked for rather than just given. Leave them to solve their problems on their own.
- Each generation is a different life pattern. Avoid saying: "When I was your age."
- Best to give help when it is needed now, rather than when you are six feet under. Hand-ups are helpful, handouts aren't. Help with a first car or the deposit on a first apartment/home are stepping stones to independence.
- Respect their space: just because you are family doesn't mean you should call round unannounced.
- Kids are inclined to think you should stay at home where you have always been. You don't have to!
- Expectations aren't always great, especially when unspoken: good communication is key on both sides.
- Grandchildren come along in their own good time. And the great thing is you get to give them back. Don't become unpaid and unappreciated babysitters.

Teeing up retirement

Giving up work is a big change — for all the family. In the second part of a series on preparing for retirement, **Celine Naughton** finds out how to keep relationships on track

Former Gallaher's employee Frank Quaid made a big mistake on the first day of his retirement in 2000. Well used to eating out with clients as part of his former job, it was coming up to 1pm when he casually asked his wife Mai: "What's for lunch?"

As an avid golfer, for Mai, a chip is a short shot on to the green, an apron is the trimmed area of grass around it, and lunch is something that might happen with friends after a morning on the links.

"So I looked him in the eye and told him: 'I don't do lunch. In fact, I don't do dinner either.' He looked shocked. I said, 'Seriously, you're expecting me to change the habits of a lifetime? It's not going to happen.'"

The University of California quotes a number



Part two of a four-part series running this week in the *Irish Independent*

of studies showing that retirement strengthens marriages in the long-term, but as Mai and Frank know, the transition to a new routine doesn't happen overnight. Like many couples, they found themselves going through an adjustment period before their relationship could move on to be even stronger than before.

"We moved from Dublin to a bungalow in Baltinglass, Co Wicklow, and got involved in Active Retirement Ireland (ARI)," says Mai. "I travelled around the country a lot, and Frank always wanted to know where I was. I know it was out of concern for me, but I've always been fiercely independent, so when I saw text messages that read, 'What time will you be home?', I mostly ignored them."

"I was national president of ARI for five years. I'm now regional development officer for South Dublin and Wicklow. I'm also the vice-chair of a local community development committee, company secretary of Wicklow Tourism, and on the secretariat of the Public Participation Network. Frank and I have both diverse and shared interests. He took up woodwork, DIY and got involved with the Golfing Union and ARI. We travel a lot and we're both rugby fanatics."

"We get on very well, although we still have the occasional row. I think the key to a happy marriage is being big enough to say, 'I'm sorry.' Frank is much nicer and more patient than me — some of our pals call him St Francis. After

59 years of marriage, we still never run out of things to talk about. He's my best friend."

Frank interjects to polish his halo before sharing his advice to other people coming up to retirement.

"First, learn how to cook — you might need to if you want to eat," he says. "Then make sure you have at least two hobbies, one of which is away from the house, and one not weather dependent. Don't think you'll be spending lots of time with former work colleagues. You'll see them maybe once a year. If you're lucky, your best mate will be living with you. And remember to smile a lot — it really annoys those still working."

While Mai and Frank are a typical example of a generation where the wife looked after the household and the husband brought home the bacon, Derek Bell, chief operations officer of the Retirement Planning Council (RPC), points out today it is different, with both spouses working outside the home in most cases.

"Usually the man is a little older, so he retires first and claims the home, which means that by the time she retires, he has a routine in place," he says.

And so begins the transition period, during which couples need to navigate tricky role renegotiations. Those who do so successfully are likely to have put in some preparation by

Continued on Page 36



'Make sure you have at least two hobbies, one away from the house'

Continued from Page 35

way of retirement planning courses, which are available through bodies like the RPC and Age & Opportunity. The RPC runs a two-day course and recommend that people do it 18 months to two years ahead of retirement.

According to Bell, common friction points after retirement are about who does what and how things are organised. "Some people think retirement is a chance to do everything together, but if you're together 24/7, conversation will die," he says. "You need to plan joint activities, but also individual ones. Have a purpose, keep yourself mentally challenged and have a social

network — and I don't mean Facebook. People get 80pc of their human contact through work and 20pc through family and friends. If work is no more, where are they going to get this? We need to get out talking to people."

Active Retirement Ireland has vibrant local groups in or near almost every community in the country, while Age & Opportunity runs a host of programmes and events designed to encourage people to fulfil their potential in older age. Its Changing Gears course is especially designed to support people moving on from working life into retirement.

"It's both a pre-retirement resource and a mid-career review opportunity," says Ciarán McKinney, the organisation's Manager of Active Citizenship and Lifelong Learning. "I believe the mid-50s is a good time to start planning well ahead for the transition into retirement.

"What we call a 'Wheel of Life' audit is a wonderful exercise to do as a couple once a year, especially in planning a smooth transition to retirement. Imagine the different parts of your life as spokes of a wheel — work, family, friends, work/life balance, recreation, spiritual values, finance and your physical whole. Rate

Why we love a comeback kid

After Tiger Woods's winning display at the Masters, **Joe Shute** recalls other plucky personalities who have returned for a second act

When Tiger Woods was busy winning his first Masters championship in 1997, he presumably had neither the time nor inclination to read Donald Trump's then newly published book, *The Art of the Comeback*. But consulting the 10 tips for rebound success, written by the man who would be president, one discovers a roadmap for Woods's own improbable return to the top.

In the Trumpian playbook, tip number one is "Play golf"; number 10 is "Always get a prenup". Woods's fifth green jacket proves he has clearly been not shirking at the former, while in 2010, after his career and personal life had gone spectacularly awry, he divorced his wife Elin Nordegren. A figure of €115m was widely quoted to have been the couple's agreed settlement.

Delving further into the list of Trump's comeback commandments, they range from the strikingly mundane — "Stay focused" and "Be passionate" — to the two that appear to combine the author's personal mantra: "Be paranoid" and "Get even".

Following publication, the critics were unkind to Trump's self-help tome, with one reviewer calling it a "pointless and ultimately ugly book", and another "a cock-crowing elegy for his own lost relevance".

Yet what he did manage to elicit was

something perfectly encapsulated by Woods's tap-in bogey on the Augusta green on Sunday to end an 11-year major title drought: the world loves a comeback kid.

Human history is littered with such examples. Take Olympian Katie Taylor, whose storied career looked like it was finished when she failed to defend her 2012 London Olympics crown at Rio 2016 — despite being favourite in the competition.

Sporting pundits wrote her off, but as Taylor said in the award-winning Ross Whitaker documentary, "I knew it wasn't the end of my career but that's when I knew I had to make changes."

Instead of hanging up her boxing gloves, she moved to the US to train with Ross Enamait. A few months later, Ireland's sporting heroine made the decision to turn professional, and has since won numerous world titles.

Olympian gold medallist James Cracknell (46) became the oldest ever Boat Race winner earlier this month. And let's not forget Sarah, Duchess of York, who made a spectacular return to Royal favour last year via two Windsor weddings.

Rowan Hooper is the author of *Superhuman: Life at the Extremes of Mental and Physical Ability*, in which the *New Scientist* journalist, who has a PhD in evolutionary biology, interviewed those who have reached the peaks of human achievement in their respective fields. He says three characteristics are vital in any great comeback: intense laser-sharp focus, a clear goal, and an absolute passion for what somebody does. "To do something extraordinary requires those three elements ramped up to the max," he says.

Hooper admits there may be something to Trump's claims that a great comeback is best inspired by a sense of settling scores — but insists revenge is far from the most powerful motivation in the human psyche.

"Some people deliberately stoke their passion," he says. "But I found a positive drive was better than a negative drive. The people I spoke to who achieved greatness were doing so for positive reasons."

To this, Dr Tadhg MacIntyre, a lecturer in Sport, Exercise and Performance Psychology at University of Limerick, suggests a few observations of his own. "Resilience is key,"



he says, "but first we have to understand what that means. "One of my PhD students is studying resilience and he has found out that it's not a trait per se. It's a dynamic process. In other words, you may be born with some personality factors which may predispose you to being more resilient but it's better looked at as something situational.

"Tiger Woods went through trauma, family issues, personal life issues and injury, and he was able to maintain motivation through long periods of pain, discomfort and endless rehab. I wouldn't say Tiger is a resilient person but I'd say he's resilient now."

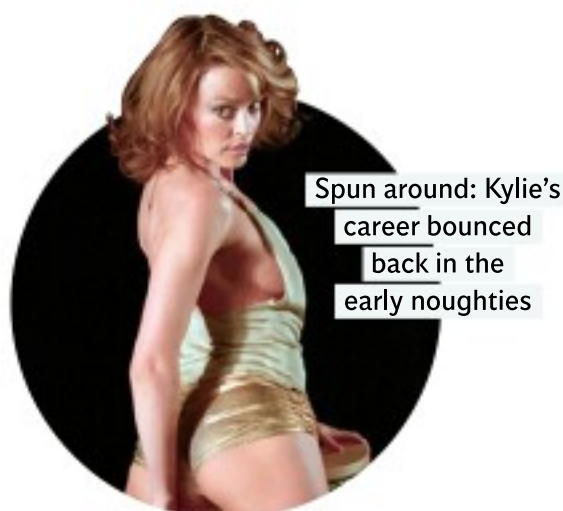
Dr McIntyre adds that sporting comebacks are about self-realisation.

"Tiger said he was done with the game two years ago but he had this long-term self-belief that motivates him to keep going. It's like Schumacher coming back into F1 as one of the richest athletes in the world. It seemed like he had nothing to prove. But, actually, he did. He wanted to be the weltmeister — to master his trade. It's to prove that you still have this incredible ability to perform under pressure."

Politicians represent a rich seam of comeback stories, popping up regardless of what knocks they take in the manner of the fairground game Whack-a-Mole.

One need look no further than Bertie Ahern who has risen, phoenix-like, from the

Bertie Ahern has risen, phoenix-like, to the perch of honorary professor of peace studies at Queen's University





Tee for two: Mai and Frank Quaid have diverse and shared interests

your satisfaction in each of these areas. This helps people to identify parts of their lives that need more attention than others, and when they do, it's very rewarding to look back and see how much things have improved."

For further information see activeirl.ie, ageandopportunity.ie, rpc.ie.



Tomorrow: Part Three
Financial planning for
retirement



Top of their game:
Human history is
littered with
examples of stellar
returns

cupboard of that infamous *News of the World* TV commercial, to the lofty perch of his new position as honorary professor of peace studies at Queen's University in Belfast; or Micheál Martin, who led the revival of Fianna Fáil, helping to change the public's perception of the party and ultimately win more seats.

Fashion, too, boasts its own fair share of tales of phoenix rising from the flames.

In 2012, German designer Jil Sander announced her return to her eponymous label she had previously sold in 2004. ("She's Back" ran the subsequent headline in *Vogue*.)

Dublin-born fashion designer Paul Costelloe will know exactly how she felt. He says his brand was given a shot in the arm by Dunnes Stores' Margaret Heffernan after she agreed to their successful homewares collaboration.

Dunnes Stores itself is a case study in big business comebacks. A modern makeover has seen the supermarket group reinvent itself as an upmarket lifestyle emporium. It was a similar story at Apple. The firm is worth more than \$1 trillion today, but central to its success was firing Steve Jobs, the man who co-founded it in a garage in Silicon Valley... before bringing him back years later to take charge of the company's turnaround.

Kylie Minogue's 2000 comeback with her single 'Spinning Around', meanwhile, was cemented by a pair of gold hotpants now firmly ensconced in the pop hall of fame.

Paul Mullan of Dublin's Measurability has seen comeback stories in every professional field in his 17 years working as a career coach. Clients come seeking a way out of redundancy, career disappointments and professional setbacks and, time and time again, he sees them go on to "bigger and better things".

"Within a setback are the seeds of something great," he says, "but first the person has to take the time to realign and refocus."

"That's when people realise that they might actually be in the wrong field or area," he adds. "So they use that time to redefine their skills, and springboard back to success."

Still, when confidence takes a knock, it can take some time to regain it, he adds. "I would work with clients who worry, 'Am I past it?' They are worried about their age and whether there is a younger, better model for their job."

Of course, age is no barrier to a comeback — just ask "Comeback King" Marty Whelan (62), who has gone from the hallowed hallways of RTÉ to the dole queue and back again.

Mary Berry (84), has also enjoyed a second coming following her casting as a judge on the *Great British Bake Off* in 2010, in which she became a national treasure following decades spent off-screen running a cookery school.

There is a metaphor in Berry's ascendancy, for those who wish to find it, in rising to the top. But, of course, the great joy of comebacks, is that nobody really stays there for long.



Modern Life

Katie Byrne

Cheryl isn't the first woman to realise you don't need a man to have a baby

Kudos to Cheryl for telling it as it is during a recent magazine interview.

The 35-year-old singer, who split from Liam Payne in July of last year, was searingly honest about life as a single mum, and just as outspoken when she was asked if she'd like to have more children.

"You don't necessarily need to be in a relationship," she told the interviewer, before bringing up her friend who has given birth to two children using donors.

"Not everything has to be conventional," she added. "You can spend ages looking for the right man, waiting for the perfect time to get pregnant, then the right man might turn out to be the wrong man. There are definitely other routes I would consider."

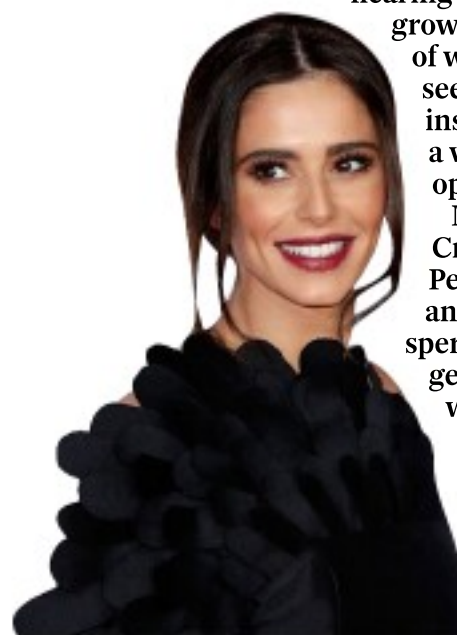
Cheryl's frank admission isn't just a refreshing change from the celeb boilerplate of "never say never". It reflects a wider trend, as more and more women consider going it alone through sperm donation.

Irish fertility clinics have noted a rise in the numbers of women seeking fertility treatment without a partner. Meanwhile, figures released by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) show that the number of single women using fertility clinics in Britain has tripled in the last decade.

There was a time when sperm donation was stigmatised — the persistent turkey baster myth didn't help matters — but we're now

hearing from a growing cohort of women who see artificial insemination as a viable fertility option.

Monica Cruz, sister of Penelope, used an anonymous sperm donor to get pregnant when she was 35. Holly Willoughby says she would have used a sperm



Baby love: Cheryl would consider sperm donation

donor to start a family had she not met her husband. Comedian Molly Hawkey is using her SpermCast podcast to find a sperm donor. And let's not forget the "accidentally on purpose" brigade. Save your indignation: it happens.

The official term for these women is 'Single Mother by Choice', but that doesn't convey the totality of the experience.

It's a choice, yes, but it's a choice borne out of circumstance. Sperm donation is a contingency plan for the vast majority of women. They don't set out to become single mothers, rather they get to an age where they feel like they have no other choice left.

Statistics tell us that more women are choosing to go it alone, but what this actually means is that more women are struggling to find the right partner at the right time.

This is largely because they don't give it as much time. Modern women don't pursue partners like their mothers and grandmothers did. Sure, they might want to find a good husband or wife but it's no longer the be-all and end-all.

Meanwhile, more and more women are seriously considering a child-free lifestyle. Womanhood is no longer defined by motherhood and this paradigm shift has paved the way for more non-traditional family units to emerge.

The fight for gender equality has also contributed to the trend.

Modern women don't pursue partners like their mothers and grandmothers did

Women are working to topple the patriarchy, and this in turn empowers them to take charge of their fertility.

Egg freezing has become a popular fertility choice in recent years but we're slowly beginning to realise that it doesn't offer any guarantees. It still relies on finding the right partner and it has the very same pitfalls as the self-storage industry: women pay exorbitant fees to store their eggs, and very few come back to retrieve them.

Sperm donation, on the other hand, cuts out the middle-man. And while there are all sorts of social, emotional and ethical ramifications, it plays neatly into the instant gratification culture in which we live.

When dates are a swipe away and same-day delivery is a click away, the idea of waiting around for the right partner can feel a little jarring. On the plus side, the transactional nature of Tinder makes the prospect of searching through a bank of potential sperm donors that little bit less clinical.

Scientists have speculated that women will one day be able to conceive without sperm, and while this sounds like a brave — and slightly terrifying — new world, the truth is that we're already half-way there.

Women want to be freed from the tyranny of the biological clock and, much like Cheryl, they're realising that you don't necessarily need a man to have a baby.

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HOROSCOPE ALERT

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Aries

March 21-April 20



Control your stubborn streak and repress the need to speak out of turn. The time has come to get real. Stop pretending things are as they should be. Tackle stress by relaxing; there is no need to get so wound up or uptight. Use your intelligence and savvy to get ahead but do not resort to devious manoeuvres.

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Taurus

April 21-May 21



Appreciate the good things in life. Appreciation of the good stuff will attract you more of the same. Simplicity enhances beauty as well as opportunities, so don't try too hard. Keep communication clear whilst the need is there. Avoid signing your life away just now. Take your time.

Call now for more info
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Gemini

May 22-June 21



The obvious route is not always the correct one. Extend the hand of friendship even though you do not feel like it. You will certainly benefit if you adopt a magnanimous attitude with a difficult person. Life will liven up if you adopt a lighter attitude. Do not focus on the difficult things; you have reason to be optimistic.

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Cancer

June 22-July 22



Reserve judgement and hold that tongue. Be balanced about a legal matter and overlook personal frustration as much as possible. Current circumstances present challenges. However, they are challenges that will sort out a whole lot. You are about to be swept off your feet in more ways than one.

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Leo

July 23-August 23



Love will win the day, so there is no point in hiding your true feelings for much longer. Foster independence and healthy interaction with loved ones. Jupiter action advises you to be considerate and altruistic with your gestures. This will up your luck and will enhance your life as well as the life of others.

Call now for more info
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Virgo

August 24-Sept 22



Uncertainty needs to be confronted head on. To be effective into the future you need to trust your own judgment and not waver once you have made a decision. Be careful that you do not make a premature mistake with your heart. Destiny will grant a wish.

Call now for more info
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Libra

Sept 23-Oct 23



Show a bit of levity and you will skillfully diffuse a situation. Play someone overtly clever at their own game. There is no need to be flippant. Victory is yours, so long as you keep a clear head. Claim a fresh start in all things. Be awesome; you know you can be. Be circumspect amidst problems.

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Scorpio

Oct 24-Nov 21



Your best intentions may have been subverted into a fuzzy muddle. You have good resources, so make wise choices. Flex your muscles and get busy. The outcome of current situations is down to you. Just do not look back in anger. Nifty words and actions will get you out of a tight spot.

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Sagittarius

Nov 22-Dec 20



The urge to speed things up a bit will no doubt get the better of you. Do not lose heart. Stop those negative expectations and your patience will be duly rewarded. Keep your dignity a while longer. Faith serves a purpose in more ways than one. Stay bright-eyed and bushy-tailed.

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Capricorn

Dec 21-Jan 20



Tap into a renewed sense of humour, this will help you access new possibilities. Lighten up and take it all less seriously; you will be glad you did. There is no need to dither in the wings on a big decision. Follow your heart. Make your nifty moves count for something and they surely will be effective.

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Aquarius

Jan 21-Feb 19



If you keep your safety belt on you can weather anything in safety. Anything is worth a try at this stage. Adopt a new approach to an old problem. A different perspective will serve you well. The harsh light of day always produces a reality check. However, tap into a strong belief and make a wish.

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Pisces

Feb 20-March 20



You deserve more recognition, love and appreciation, more of everything, in fact. Watch out for greed though. You will have more than your fair share. Watch also for jealousies and protect yourself. Do not overdo it and prepare for quite significant change. Accept responsibility for what comes next.

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Question Time

Who am I?



Answers 1. John Ronald Reuel 2. François Hollande 3. Limerick 4. 1997 5. UNESCO

Answer at bottom of page

FLASH BACK


Fair in Ballinsloe, April 1964.

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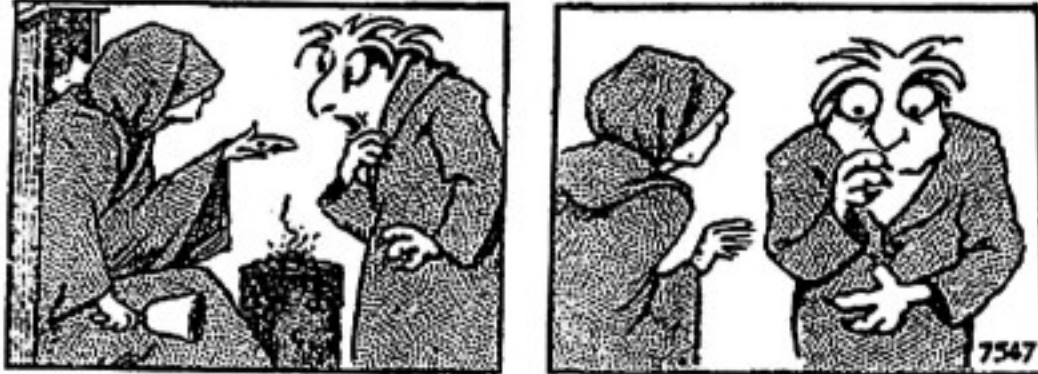


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Dilbert



Curly Wee



“D’you think I’ll catch pneumon-i-a?” the Owl looks wild and wan. He coughs a bit as though he feels the symptoms coming on. “I’m glad I’m here,” the old Sheep bleats as Orace quakes and squirms. “Because by chance I have a pill that kills pneumonia germs!”

“Just pop it in your beak.” she bleats and oh, her bleat is kind. “It’s death to all pneumonia germs, as you will shortly find ...” The Owl devours the proffered pill, although it’s rather hard. And quite forgets the necklace rare that he’s supposed to guard!

Bridge

Game all; dealer South

	North	
	♠ 732	
	♥ 98754	
	♦ K75	
	♣ 72	
West		East
♠ K10 6		♠ J984
♥ None		♥ 3
♦ A J10 8 6 4 3		♦ Q92
♣ 1095		♣ QJ863
	South	
	♠ A Q 5	
	♥ A K Q J 10 6 2	
	♦ None	
	♣ A K 4	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3♦	pass	pass	2♣
pass	4♦ (1)	pass	3♥
all pass			6♥

(1) Agrees hearts.

West would have done well to emulate Papageno the birdman in Mozart’s opera “The Magic Flute” Papageno had a padlock placed on his lips. Had West stayed quiet, there’s every chance South’s slam would have failed. South won the club lead in hand. His object was to avoid losing two spade tricks, so set out to endplay West. At trick two declarer led the deuce of hearts and called for dummy’s four. He continued by ruffing a low diamond high in hand. King and another club, trumped high in dummy, saw clubs eliminated. Dummy’s second low diamond was ruffed high. Now the six of hearts was overtaken with the seven, and the king of diamonds played, on which declarer ditched his low spade. West won, but that was the only trick for the defence, as West was endplayed. Another diamond would see him ruff in dummy pitching the queen of spades from hand, and a spade would be into the teeth of his tenace. Nicely handled.

Maureen Hiron

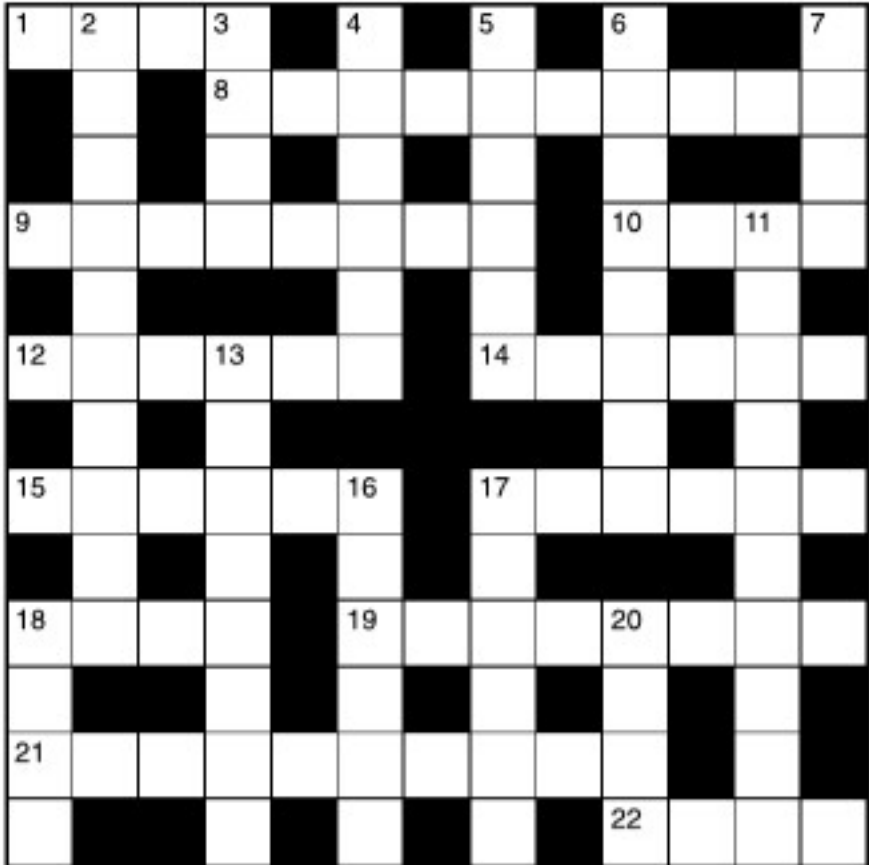
Chess



Black’s pinned knight is protected but how can white to move, ratchet up the pressure? **Timofeev - Ulanov** Russia 2012 1.Qe4! Rb8, 2.Bxb6 resigns. After 2...Rxb7, 3.Qxb7! Qxb7, 4.d7! wins.

*The Curly Wee archive is from over 50 years ago, apologies for any rare breaks in its sequencing

Two-In-One No 4,555



CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- 1** In a shop a lustrous jewel is seen (4)
- 8** Black-coated worker (10)
- 9** Died last month, relieved of pain (8)
- 10** Put a restriction on freedom in punishing at Eton (4)
- 12** Famous biologist in Northern Territory (6)
- 14** Get in the gin - a parent is upset (6)
- 15** Take midday meal around a vessel (6)
- 17** Chair who deals with the joint (6)
- 18** Very small matter for a piper's son (4)
- 19** Patch of water returns to the pit - way of escape needed (8)
- 21** He may get told to stick 'em up! (10)
- 22** History is made in Pennsylvania Street (4)
- DOWN**
- 2** Europeans as far away as can be! (5,5)
- 3** Fish not yet caught, one hears (4)
- 4** Peculiar child, but very much a favourite! (4,2)
- 5** Take umbrage at a restraining device (6)
- 6** See 16 Down
- 7** It was spoken in Ulster, seemingly (4)
- 11** Journeymen (10)
- 13** What a grind when this was operating under sail (8)
- 16 & 6Dn.** Disembodied mirth? (6,8)
- 17** Cuffs a hundred ill-mannered boors (6)
- 18** All long Benedictine surplises, initially (4)
- 20** Having angelic associations, it needs some pluck! (4)

SIMPLE CLUES

- ACROSS**
- 1** Scintilla (4)
- 8** Silence by surprise (6,4)
- 9** Agreeable (8)
- 10** Stake (4)
- 12** Rub out (6)
- 14** Took notice (6)
- 15** Small tower (8)
- 17** A planet (6)
- 18** A goddess (4)
- 19** Wins back (8)
- 21** Honestly open (5,5)
- 22** Dispatch (4)
- DOWN**
- 2** Crawling (2,3,5)
- 3** A continent (4)
- 4** Lubricate (6)
- 5** Drawing (6)
- 6** Contiguous (8)
- 7** Competent (4)
- 11** Moscow citadel (3,7)
- 13** Rough (8)
- 16** Pulsates (6)
- 17** Gregarious (6)
- 18** Persia (4)
- 20** Joins (4)

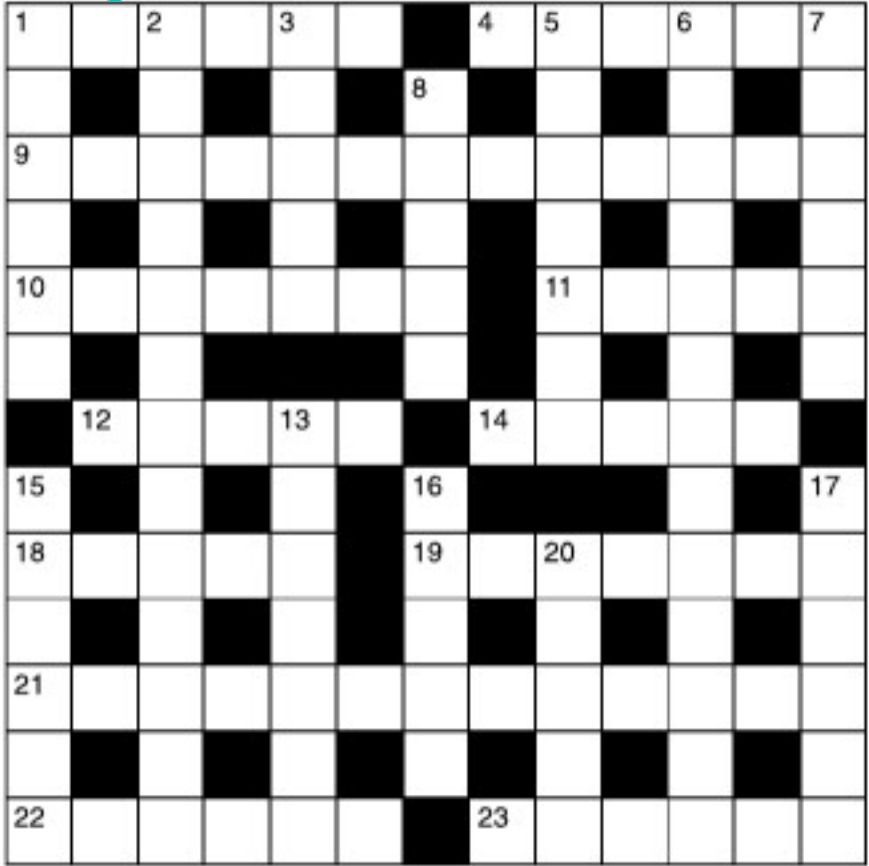
YESTERDAY'S CRYPTIC SOLUTION
Across: 7 Inane; 8 Rookery; 9 Husband; 10 Elder; 12 Never again; 15 Auctioneer; 18 Towed; 19 Cutlass; 21 Oneness; 22 Sieve.
Down: 1 Light heart; 2 Pansy; 3 Beta; 4 Bridge; 5 Coverage; 6 Headway; 11 Ringmaster; 13 Evildoer; 14 Scowled; 16 Nicest; 17 Males; 20 Tass.

YESTERDAY'S SIMPLE SOLUTION
Across: 7 Roach; 8 Element; 9 Adverse; 10 Earns; 12 Protection; 15 Songstress; 18 Sound; 19 Topical; 21 Mariner; 22 Adieu.
Down: 1 Broadcasts; 2 Halve; 3 Char; 4 Detect; 5 Defences; 6 Terrain; 11 Santa Claus; 13 Resident; 14 Inquire; 16 Retire; 17 Acrid; 20 Pear.

For today's solutions text **CRYPTIC** or **SIMPLE** followed by the clue to **53307** (eg **SIMPLE 1 down to 53307**)

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Twinplex No 16,753



CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- 1** Conveyance for one in the hunt (6)
- 4** Vegetable to shoot up (6)
- 9** Make a list of sportsmen - they will automatically give repeat performances (6,7)
- 10** Trampled in an endless rush (7)
- 11** Circulate a question awaiting decision (5)
- 12** Migratory tribe to collect treasure, we hear (5)
- 14** Leather pieces sent back (5)
- 18** Embellish a new day, one hears (5)
- 19** A thousand ladies upset by faulty distribution (7)
- 21** Mechanism for type-casting? (8,5)
- 22** In taking a deep dislike set about Ted too (6)
- 23** Insignificant friend needs to make an effort (6)
- DOWN**
- 1** This is dropped in a ladylike way (6)
- 2** Old-timer? (13)
- 3** Take off for southern journey (5)
- 5** Pat is in poor form and he's a key player (7)
- 6** Finished with the announcement that shows exaggeration (13)
- 7** He examines an old coin (6)
- 8** Some of the tailors pad epaulettes for one in a black suit (5)
- 13** Carries a certain significance but needs to change (7)
- 15** Lightly touched, like an open cask (6)
- 16** Don't leave wrong conclusion after mother is upset (5)
- 17** Take wing round the tree like lightning (6)
- 20** Pigment coming from bottomless pit in the ocean (5)

SIMPLE CLUES

- ACROSS**
- 1** Carriage (6)
- 4** Bud (6)
- 9** Gramophones (6,7)
- 10** Impressed (7)
- 11** Edition (5)
- 12** Mob (5)
- 14** Leather strip (5)
- 18** Decorate (5)
- 19** Allot incorrectly (7)
- 21** Publishing machine (8,5)
- 22** Hate (6)
- 23** Meagre (6)
- DOWN**
- 1** Formal gesture (6)
- 2** Prehistorian (13)
- 3** Long narrow piece (5)
- 5** Musician (7)
- 6** Exaggeration (13)
- 7** Examiner (6)
- 8** Tool (5)
- 13** Indicates (7)
- 15** Knocked (6)
- 16** Improve (5)
- 17** Dazzling (6)
- 20** Red-brown pigment (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS Across: 4 Balance; 8 Rouses; 9 Florist; 10 Indian; 11 Icicle; 12 Lowering; 18 Optional; 20 Drivel; 21 Ravage; 22 Radiate; 23 Teller; 24 Leisure.
Down: 1 Article; 2 Run down; 3 Repair; 5 All right; 6 Adroit; 7 Castle; 13 Idolater; 14 Entails; 15 Allegro; 16 Ornate; 17 Avoids; 19 Images.

For today's solutions text **TWIN** followed by the crossword number and required clue to **53307** (eg **TWIN 15,451 3 down to 53307**)

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Sudoku No 16623 Win with Super Sudoku every Saturday in the Irish Independent

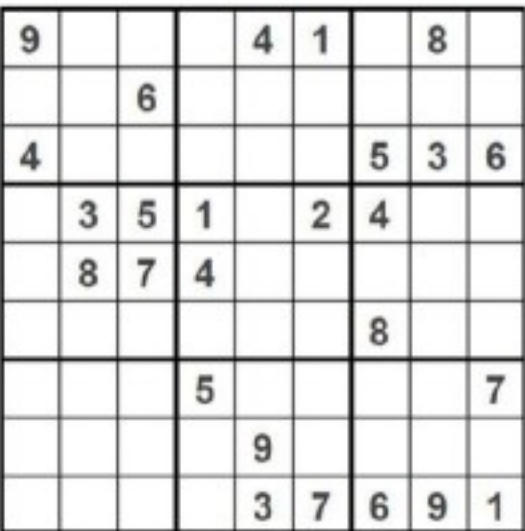
Elementary



Intermediate

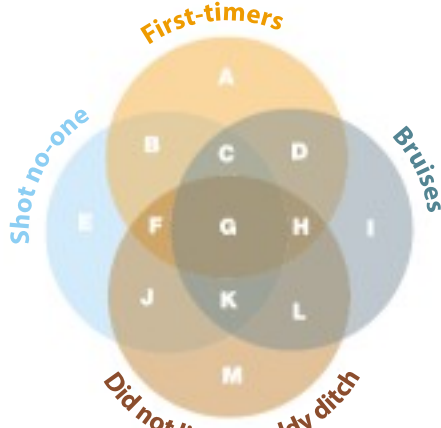


Advanced



Venn Diagram

Can you work out which two areas of this diagram represent first-time paintballers who lie in a muddy ditch for an hour, shoot no-one and incur multiple bruises, and experienced paintballers who lie in a muddy ditch and incur multiple bruises but also shot people?



Solution:
C and I

Word Wheel



You have 10 minutes to find as many words as possible, using the letters shown in the wheel. Each word must use the hub letter and a minimum of three others, and letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is one nine-letter word in the wheel, for which today's clue is:

NO LIFE

Six words: average, nine words: good, 12 words: very good, 15 or more: excellent.

Yesterday's nine-letter word: PARAMEDIC

Yesterday's solutions	Elementary									Intermediate									Advanced								
	9	8	6	5	3	7	1	4	2	2	5	8	7	6	3	9	1	4	2	9	3	7	5	4	1	8	6
	5	1	3	2	8	4	6	9	7	4	6	3	9	1	5	7	8	2	5	8	7	2	1	6	3	4	9
	2	4	7	1	6	9	3	8	5	7	9	1	8	4	2	3	5	6	4	1	6	3	8	9	2	7	5
	3	7	9	4	5	1	2	6	8	8	2	6	3	5	7	1	4	9	1	3	4	8	6	2	9	5	7
	1	6	8	3	7	2	4	5	9	5	7	4	6	9	1	2	3	8	8	7	2	5	9	1	6	3	4
	4	5	2	6	9	8	7	1	3	1	3	9	2	8	4	5	6	7	9	6	5	4	3	7	8	1	2
	6	3	1	9	2	5	8	7	4	3	8	7	1	2	6	4	9	5	3	4	8	9	2	5	7	6	1
	8	9	4	7	1	3	5	2	6	9	4	2	5	3	8	6	7	1	7	2	1	6	4	3	5	9	8
	7	2	5	8	4	6	9	3	1	6	1	5	4	7	9	8	2	3	6	5	9	1	7	8	4	2	3

HOW TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There's no maths involved, simply use reasoning and logic

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Wednesday April 17

RTÉ ONE	RTÉ 2	one	TG4
<p>6.00 EuroNews 7.35 Teleshopping 8.10 Today with Maura and Daithi (T) 10.05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show (T) 11.00 Dr Phil 11.55 Shortland Street (T) 12.25 Doctors (T) 1.00 RTE News 1.30 Home and Away (T) 2.00 Neighbours Drama. 2.25 EastEnders 3.00 Fair City 3.30 Today with Maura and Daithi 5.40 Nuacht 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 RTE News (T)</p> <p>7.00 Nationwide</p> <p>7.30 Desperate Houses Roisin Murphy meets a family of seven at their three-bedroom house in Leixlip, Co Kildare.</p> <p>8.00 Fair City Doug and Sean get off to a rocky start until Ray smooths things over.</p> <p>8.30 Grow, Cook, Eat Karen O'Donohoe visits All Together Now, a new festival held in Portlao, Co Waterford.</p> <p>9.00 RTE News (T)</p> <p>9.35 Brendan O'Connor's Cutting Edge This week Brendan is joined by Mike Ross, Mairead Ronan and Niamh Horan. (T)</p> <p>10.35 All Round to Mrs Brown's Agnes and the family open their doors to sports presenter Clare Balding and comedian Johnny Vegas and his mammy. (T)</p> <p>11.45 In the Club</p> <p>12.55 Creedon's Road Less Travelled (T) 1.55 Ireland's Fittest Family 2.50 Operation Transformation (T) 3.45 Say Yes to the Dress (T) 4.10 Daniel and Majella's B&B Road Trip (T) 4.40 Getaways Documentary. (T) 5.05 At Your Service (T) 5.35 EuroNews</p>	<p>6.00 RTEjr 10.20 Deadly Top Tens (T) 10.50 FILM: Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home (1995) Adventure, starring Jason James Richter, Michael Madsen and Jayne Atkinson. ★★ (T) 12.35 Pig, Goat, Banana, Cricket 1.00 Scooby-Doo 1.25 Teen Titans Go! (T) 1.50 Matt Hatter Chronicles (T) 2.15 Strange Hill High (T) 2.40 The Next Step (T) 3.05 The Bagel and Becky Show 3.20 Austin & Ally (T) 3.45 Corneil and Bernie 4.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show (T) 5.00 The Simpsons (T) 5.30 The Simpsons (T) 6.00 Neighbours (T) 6.30 Home and Away (T)</p> <p>7.00 The Big Bang Theory A sick Sheldon annoys the gang. (T)</p> <p>7.25 Saving Lives At Sea The team is called out to help a climber who has fallen in a remote cave on the Gower Peninsula. (T)</p> <p>8.35 Grand Designs: House of the Year Kevin McCloud hosts as the Royal Institute of British Architects seeks the best new home in Britain. (T)</p> <p>9.35 Killing Eve Carolyn gives Eve a new team and she briefs them on Villanelle, but Carolyn is hiding something. (T)</p> <p>10.30 Stacey Dooley Investigates Stacey Dooley meets victims of 'kneecappings', as well as communities who are standing up to the attackers. (T)</p> <p>11.25 Home from Home (T)</p> <p>12.05 The Handmaids Tale (T) 1.15 Elementary (T) 2.05 Lethal Weapon (T) 2.55 EuroNews</p>	<p>6.10 The Tonight Show (T) 7.00 Ireland AM (T) 10.30 This Morning (T) 12.30 News at 12:30 (T) 1.00 The Chase (T) 2.00 The Chase (T) 3.00 Elaine 4.00 The Lazy Chef (T) 4.30 Judge Judy 5.30 News at 5:30 (T) 6.00 The Six O'Clock Show (T)</p> <p>7.00 Emmerdale (T)</p> <p>7.30 Coronation Street Gary meets a familiar face on his first day collecting debts, and Michelle lashes out at Robert. (T)</p> <p>8.00 News at 8 (T)</p> <p>8.30 Coronation Street Nick diverts the police's attention, and Chesney catches Gemma fleeing Joseph at poker. (T)</p> <p>9.00 Doctor in the House Peter and Catherine live in Cloyne, Co Cork with their children Sarah, Roisin and Peadar. The couple learn about the effect that alcohol and poor diet has had on their health, before they revamp their lifestyle. (T)</p> <p>10.00 UEFA Champions League Highlights Action from the night's two quarter-final matches, which were the all-Premier League tie between Manchester City and Tottenham, plus Liverpool's trip to Portugal to face Porto.</p> <p>11.00 The Tonight Show Matt Cooper and Ivan Yates are joined by a panel of guests to offer their take on the big national and international stories making the headlines. (T)</p> <p>12.00 Moorside 1.15 Trauma 2.15 Teleshopping 5.25 The Six O'Clock Show Talk show.</p>	<p>7.00 Cula 4 9.30 Ainmhi 999 10.00 Little House on the Prairie 10.55 Gilmore Girls 11.45 Cheese Slices 12.15 Logainm 12.45 Garrai Glas 1.15 The West Wing 2.05 Weakest Link 3.00 Cula 4 na nOg 5.00 Whiz sa Chistin 5.28 An Aimsir Laithreach 5.30 Irish Paint Magic 6.00 Weakest Link 6.57 An Aimsir Laithreach</p> <p>7.00 Nuacht TG4</p> <p>7.30 Realta agus Gaolta Sinead Ni Uallachain, is joined by new judges sean-nos singer Irial O'Ceallaigh and Jim Lockhart from Horslips.</p> <p>8.30 Ar Shli na Firinne Seamas Mac Annaidh explores the stories behind the country's graveyards, starting in Belfast.</p> <p>9.00 Glor Tíre Togha & Rogha Johnny Brady, Patrick Feeney, Mike Denver, Shawn Cuddy and Cliona Hagan feature.</p> <p>9.30 Sceal na Beatha Following Seosamh O Conchuir, a man who lived a full life but only came to realise how important he was to others.</p> <p>10.30 The Sinner Cora journeys into the past, finally remembering the night in question in a series of disturbing flashbacks which reveal why she stabbed the 'stranger' on the beach.</p> <p>11.18 An Aimsir Laithreach</p> <p>11.20 Bothar Buck</p> <p>11.50 Unleashing Mr. Darcy (2016) Drama, starring Cindy Busby, Ryan Paevey and Elizabeth McLaughlin. ★★</p> <p>1.25 Dail Eireann 1.50 France 24</p>
TWO	one	TWO	
<p>7.20 Big Star's Little Star 8.20 Tipping Point (T) 9.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show (T) 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show (T) 11.30 Ireland AM (T) 12.30 Loose Women 1.30 Bondi Rescue 2.00 Emmerdale (T) 2.30 Emmerdale (T) 3.00 Xpose 4.00 Tipping Point (T) 6.00 The Chase Quiz, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (T)</p> <p>7.00 The Chase Four contestants join forces in an attempt to outsmart a ruthless trivia genius who is determined to prevent them from winning big money. (T)</p> <p>8.00 Renovation Nation Laura Woods presents the show that gives a helping hand to charitable organisations and local groups across the country by refitting and reviving their much loved spaces in a day.</p> <p>9.00 Locked Up Strangeways Prison Offering an intimate look at life inside one of Britain's most notorious maximum security prisons, following both inmates and staff.</p> <p>10.00 News on Two (T)</p> <p>10.30 Coronation Street Gary meets a familiar face on his first day collecting debts, and Michelle lashes out at Robert. (T)</p> <p>11.00 Coronation Street Nick diverts the police's attention, and Chesney catches Gemma fleeing Joseph at poker. (T)</p> <p>11.30 Emmerdale Moira oversteps the mark, Priya feels pushed out by Aiesha, and Harriet makes a disturbing discovery. (T)</p> <p>12.00 Ibiza Weekenders 1.00 Ibiza Weekenders</p>	<p>6.00 Breakfast (T) 9.15 Animal Park Easter Special (T) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer (T) 11.00 The Sheriffs Are Coming (T) 11.45 Close Calls: On Camera (T) 12.15 Bargain Hunt (T) 1.00 BBC News (T) 1.30 BBC Newsline (T) 1.45 Doctors (T) 2.15 Curiosity (T) 3.00 Escape to the Country (T) 3.45 Home Is Where the Art Is (T) 4.30 The Repair Shop (T) 5.15 Pointless (T) 6.00 BBC News (T) 6.30 BBC Newsline (T) 6.55 Party Election Broadcast by the UK Independence Party</p> <p>7.00 The One Show Matt Baker and Alex Jones introduce a selection of some of the UK's biggest topical stories. (T)</p> <p>8.00 Supermarket Secrets Gregg Wallace sees how Ocado is using robots to revolutionise online delivery, while Nikki Fox tests the Co-op's new pay in the aisle technology. (T)</p> <p>9.00 Earth from Space New series. Four-part documentary using mainly satellite images to illustrate the interconnectivity of our planet. (T)</p> <p>10.00 BBC News (T)</p> <p>10.25 BBC Newsline (T)</p> <p>10.35 Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star The four semi-finalists head to Carnaby Street for an event to celebrate the history of music. (T)</p> <p>11.35 A Question of Sport (T)</p> <p>12.05 Celebrity Painting Challenge (T) 1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead (T) 1.10 BBC News Latest headlines. (T)</p>	<p>6.30 The Repair Shop (T) 7.15 Home Is Where the Art Is (T) 8.00 Mary Berry's Quick Cooking (T) 8.30 Gardeners' World (T) 9.00 BBC News; Weather (T) 10.00 Victoria Derbyshire (T) 11.00 BBC Newsroom Live (T) 1.00 The Boss (T) 1.45 Back in Time for Dinner (T) 2.45 Back in Time for Dinner (T) 3.45 The Hairy Builder (T) 4.15 The Hairy Builder (T) 4.45 Eggheads (T) 5.15 Flog It! (T) 6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games (T) 6.30 Island Medics (T)</p> <p>7.00 Antiques Road Trip Antiques experts search for treasures and compete to make the most money at auction. (T)</p> <p>8.00 Great British Menu The heats for the Scottish chefs begin as Gordon Jones, Lorna McNee and Ben Reade compete to impress the judges with their starter and fish course for this year's music-themed menu. (T)</p> <p>9.00 MotherFatherSon Max is under the spotlight as a nation stands on the brink, and Kathryn must decide whether to make a huge sacrifice in order to expose the truth. (T)</p> <p>10.00 Island of Dreams Comedy special set on Necker Island, starring Harry Enfield as Sir Richard Branson. (T)</p> <p>10.30 Newsnight (T)</p> <p>11.15 The Murder that Changed a Nation Three-part documentary series. (T)</p> <p>12.15 DIY SOS: The Big Build (T) 1.15 Race Across the World (T) 2.15 This Is BBC Two (T)</p>	<p>6.25 Cheers (T) 7.45 Frasier (T) 9.10 Everybody Loves Raymond (T) 10.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (T) 11.05 Car SOS (T) 12.00 Channel 4 News (T) 12.05 Come Dine with Me (T) 1.05 Escape to the Chateau: DIY (T) 2.10 Countdown (T) 3.00 A Place in the Sun (T) 4.00 A New Life in the Sun (T) 5.00 Four in a Bed (T) 5.30 Extreme Cake Makers (T) 6.00 The Simpsons Comedy. (T) 6.30 Hollyoaks (T) Channel 4 News (T)</p> <p>7.00 Location, Location, Location Kirstie Allsopp meets a couple who are searching for a family home in Woking and Phil Spencer is in Guildford visiting a couple with a good budget. (T)</p> <p>9.00 Chimerica New series. A photojournalist travels to China to try to track down the mysterious man who was pictured standing defiantly in front of a tank in Tiananmen Square 20 years ago. (T)</p> <p>10.00 Gogglebox Britain's sharpest armchair critics share more of their insightful, passionate and sometimes emotional critiques of the week's best shows. (T)</p> <p>11.05 First Dates (T)</p> <p>12.10 The Great British School Swap (T) 1.05 FILM: Love, Rosie (2014) Comedy, starring Lily Collins. ★★ (T) 2.50 Coast vs Country (T) 3.45 French Collection (T) 4.35 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures (T) 4.55 The £100k Drop (T) 5.50 Countdown (T)</p>



Troy Gentile stars, The Goldbergs, E4, 8pm

SATELLITE

UTV

10.30 This Morning. **12.30 Loose Women.** **1.30 News.** **1.55 UTV Live.** **2.00 Judge Rinder.** **3.00 Tenable.** **4.00 Tipping Point.** **5.00 The Chase.** **6.00 UTV Live.** **6.30 News.** **7.00 Emmerdale.** **7.30 Coronation Street.** **8.00 Britain's Brightest Family.** **8.30 Coronation Street.** **9.00 The Bay.** **10.00 News.** **10.30 UTV Live.** **10.45 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport.** **11.10 LaLiga.** **12.10 British Touring Car Championship Highlights.**

Virgin Media Three

9.00 Elaine. **10.00 Dress to Impress.** **12.00 Jeremy Kyle USA.** **1.00 Nanny 911.** **2.00 Judge Rinder.** **4.00 The Royal.** **5.00 Long Lost Family Australia.** **6.00 Heartbeat.** **7.00 Jeremy Kyle's Emergency Room.** **8.00 Hell's Kitchen Australia.** **9.15 Bull.** **10.15 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** **11.15 Victoria.** **12.15 Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents.**

BBC4

9.00 Julius Caesar Revealed. **10.00 The Normans.** **11.00 Blazes and Brigades: The Story of the Fire Service.** **12.00 The Joy of Stats.**

more4

10.55 The Great British Bake Off. **12.15 Find It, Fix It, Flog It.** **1.15 Four in a Bed.** **3.50 Food Unwrapped.** **4.55 The Secret Life of the Zoo.** **5.55 The Supervet.** **6.55 999: On The Frontline.** **7.55 Grand Designs.** **9.00 Find It, Fix It, Drive It.** **10.00 Car SOS.** **11.00 24 Hours in A&E.** **12.00 999: On The Frontline.**

E4

10.00 The Big Bang Theory. **11.00 The Goldbergs.** **12.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine.** **1.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **2.00 Baby Daddy.** **3.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine.** **4.00 The Goldbergs.** **5.00 The Crystal Maze.** **6.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **7.00 Hollyoaks.** **7.30 Speechless.** **8.00 The Goldbergs.** **8.30 Schooled.** **9.00 Tattoo Fixers: Extreme.** **10.00 First Dates Hotel.** **11.05 The Hangover Games.** **11.40 The Big Bang Theory.** **12.35 Tattoo Fixers: Extreme.**

Sky One

10.00 The Athena. **10.30 The Simpsons.** **11.00 Modern Family.** **12.00 NCIS: Los Angeles.** **1.00 Hawaii Five-0.** **3.00 Modern Family.** **4.00 The Simpsons.** **5.30 Futurama.** **6.30 The Simpsons.** **8.00 DC's Legends of Tomorrow.** **9.00 Magnum PI.** **10.00 Strike Back.** **11.00 Karl Pilkington: The Moaning of Life.** **12.00 Motorway Patrol**

Sky Atlantic

9.00 The West Wing. **11.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** **12.00 Without a Trace.** **2.00 Blue Bloods.** **3.00 The West Wing.** **5.00 Without a Trace.** **7.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** **8.00 Blue Bloods.** **9.00 Billions.** **10.10 Veep.** **10.45 Barry.** **11.20 The Case Against Adnan Syed.** **12.30 The Wire.**

DEATH NOTICES

BOLTON, Bill (Blackhall Bridge, Portarlinton, Co. Laois) - April 16, 2019 (peacefully), at his home, surrounded by his loving family; deeply regretted by his loving wife Teresa, daughters Teresa, Una, Aileen, Anne and Margaret, sons Bill and John, sisters Francie, Una and Peg, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. Rest in peace. Reposing at his home today (Wednesday) from 12 noon with rosary at 6 o'clock. Removal tomorrow (Holy Thursday) morning at 10 o'clock, arriving St. Michael's Church, Portarlinton for funeral prayers at 11 o'clock. Interment afterwards in St. Michael's Cemetery.

CODY, Richard (Dick) - April 13, 2019 (Balkill Road, Howth) (suddenly), much loved brother of Pat, Noel and the late Ray; sadly missed by his brothers, sisters-in-law Joan, Colette and Valarie, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and many old friends from his years with Clontarf, Suttonians and Lansdowne Rugby Clubs. Burial in St. Fintan's Cemetery, Sutton this (Wednesday) morning following 10 o'clock. Mass in the Church of the Assumption, Howth, House private.

"May he rest in peace."

COGHLAN, Muriel (late of Avondale Avenue, Phibsboro, Dublin) - April 16, 2019 (peacefully), surrounded by her loving family and in the loving care of the nuns and staff of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Holy Family Residence, Roebuck Rd; Muriel will be greatly missed by her family, brothers Denis and Peter, sister Norah, brother-in-law Des, sister-in-law Susan, nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces. Funeral Service at 10.30 o'clock, tomorrow (Thursday, April 18) in The Holy Family Residence Chapel, Roebuck Road, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14, followed by burial in Glasnevin Cemetery.

CULLEN (Springvale, Limerick Road, Nenagh and late of 39 Kenyon Street), John - April 15, 2019 (peacefully), at home after a long illness, predeceased by his beloved daughter Mary and sisters Mary, Ann, Bridget and Eleanor; deeply regretted by his loving wife Rosaleen (Rose), brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, relatives, cousins, neighbours and friends. R.I.P. Funeral arriving to St. Mary's of the Rosary Church, Nenagh today (Wednesday) at 11.45 o'clock, for Requiem Mass at 12 o'clock. Burial afterwards in Lisboney Old Cemetery. House private please.

CULLEN, Vincent (Beechwood, Ballivor, Co. Meath) - April 15, 2019, after a short illness at Tullamore General Hospital, beloved husband of Mel and loving father of Shane and Lela and stepfather of Syafiqah and Faris; deeply regretted by his loving family, beloved mother Bernie, brother Des, sister Siobhán, Shane's mother Marian, sister-in-law Sissi, brother-in-law Noel, nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Reposing at Heffernans' Funeral Home, High Street, Trim, C15 HDT1 tomorrow (Thursday) from 5 o'clock to 7 o'clock. Cremation Service at 3 o'clock on Friday in Mount Jerome. No flowers please.

DALY, Daniel (Osberstown Cottages, Naas, Co. Kildare) - April 13, 2019, after a short illness; sadly missed by his loving parents Peggy and Brian, sister Helena and her partner Brian, aunts, uncles, cousins, relatives and friends. Reposing at his home today (Wednesday) from 4 o'clock with Rosary at 7 o'clock. Funeral Service tomorrow (Thursday) morning at 11 o'clock in the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary and The Guardian Angels, Sallins followed by burial in St. Corban's Cemetery, Naas.

"May He Rest In Peace"

EGAN (née Farrell), Rose (Rosie) (Shanard Avenue Santry, and late of Garrycastle, Athlone) (peacefully) - April 13, 2019, surrounded by her loving family in the care of the staff of Cara Care Nursing Home, Northwood, Santry, predeceased by her husband Jimmy and son Brendan; she will be sadly missed by her sons Aidan and James, brother Christy and sister, Sr. Clare Farrell, daughters-in-law Angela, Nancy and Kerry, grandchildren Stephen, Fiona, Ciaran, Sínead, Martin and Paul, great-grandchildren Ella and Katie, relatives and friends. Funeral Mass this (Wednesday) morning at 10 o'clock in The Church of Our Lady of Victories, Ballymun Road, followed by burial in Fingal Cemetery.

DEATH NOTICES

HURLEY, Patrick (Columban Fathers) (late of Kilcrohane Bantry, Philippines and Dalgan Park, Navan) - April 15, 2019 (peacefully), in the loving care of the staff of St. Columban's Retirement Home Navan, predeceased by his parents Michael and Bridget, sisters Sr. Catherine (Columban Sisters) and Noreen, brothers Brendan, Michael, Fr. Diarmuid SSC and Fr. Gerard SSC; very deeply regretted by his sister Mary, brothers Colm and Barry, brother-in-law Michael, sister-in-law Bernie, nieces, nephews, extended family, Columban family and friends. Funeral Mass today (Wednesday, April 17) at 11 o'clock in St. Columban's Dalgan Park, Navan, followed by burial in the Community cemetery.

"Ar dheis Dé go raibh anam uasal"

KAUFMAN (née Conran), Kathleen (Lucan, Co. Dublin) - April 14, 2019 (peacefully), at MISA St James' Hospital, Mam to Jim, Gran to Aoife and Ciara, Mother-in-law to Maria, who were all with her at the time. As was her wish, her body was donated to the Royal College of Surgeons.

"O Sacred Heart of Jesus we place all our trust in Thee."

KENNY (née Mannion), Margaret (Ballyduff, Ballinahown, Athlone) - April 16, 2019 (peacefully), at Tullamore Regional Hospital, surrounded by her family, beloved wife of the late Frank and dearly loved mother of Mary Heavin (Ballyduff), Francis Carty (Ballyforan) and Michael (Ballyduff); deeply regretted by her loving family, sons-in-law Thomas and Frank, daughter-in-law Mary, sister-in-law Sabina Mannion, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, niece, relatives and a wide circle of friends. Reposing at Flynn's Funeral Home, Athlone today (Wednesday) from 4 o'clock until removal at 6.45 o'clock to St. Colmcille's Church, Ballinahown arriving at 7.30 o'clock. Funeral Liturgy tomorrow (Holy Thursday) at 11 o'clock. Interment afterwards in Clonmacnois. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to COPD, Irish Lung Foundation. House private please.

"May She Rest in Peace"

MURRAY, Thomas P. (Tom) (Portmarnock and formerly of Drumcondra, Dublin) - April 13, 2019 (peacefully), surrounded by his loving family, in the wonderful care of the staff of Beaumont Hospital; very sadly missed by his devoted wife Rosaria, son Tom, daughter Nuala, son-in-law Andrew, daughter-in-law Margaret, his 3 adored grandchildren Cormac, Sorcha and Elaina, sister Betty, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. May he rest in peace. Removal this (Wednesday) morning to St. Anne's Church, Portmarnock arriving for 10 o'clock. Funeral Mass followed by cremation in Dardistown Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Beaumont Hospital Foundation. House private.

McKAY (née Farry), Mary (Castleknock, Dublin) - April 14, 2019 (peacefully), after a sudden illness surrounded by her devoted family at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, beloved wife of John, wonderful mother of Patricia, Angela, Susan and the late infant Declan, proud grandmother of Katie, Sarah, Jayne, Ashling, Julianne, Matthew, Alex, Patrick, Jonathan and Rebecca, predeceased by her brother Patrick and sister Nuala; sadly missed by her loving family, brothers Michael and Brian, sister Cathleen, sons-in-law Ken Nyhan, Gary Clarke and P.J. O'Donnell; she will always be fondly remembered by her sisters-in-law, brother-in-law, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Removal to the Church of Our Lady Mother of the Church, Castleknock this (Wednesday) morning arriving for Requiem Mass at 11 o'clock, followed by burial in Dangan Cemetery, Summerhill, Co. Meath. House private on Wednesday morning, please.

"Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilis."

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DEATH NOTICES

O'BRIEN (née Fitzgibbon), Carmel (Kilkee Road, Rush, Co. Clare) - April 16, 2019 (peacefully), at home after a short illness surrounded by her loving family; sadly missed by her children Felicity O'Kelly, Petrina Doherty, Carmel Schmid and Garrett O'Brien, their spouses and partner Eugene, John and Sandra, brother Noel, sisters Felicity, Pauline, Dolores and Petrina, grandchildren Aoife, Eoghan, Aisling, Aibhne, Fiachra, Camilla, Elsa and Eireann, brother-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins and her dear friends. May she rest in peace. Reposing at Cusack's Funeral Chapel, Kilrush this (Wednesday) evening from 5 o'clock with removal at 7 o'clock to St. Senan's Church, Kilrush. Funeral Mass tomorrow (Thursday) at 11 o'clock, followed by burial in All Saints Cemetery, Shanakyle.

O'CONNOR (Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin) - April 15, 2019 (peacefully), in St. Michael's Hospital, Frances, beloved daughter of the late John and Margaret; sadly missed by her brothers Fred and Seamus, sister Margaret, sisters-in-law Joan and Eileen, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, cousins, extended family, neighbours and friends. Remembering also her late brothers Jack and Paddy and sister Máire. Reposing on Friday in Quinn's of Glashule from 4 o'clock to 6 o'clock. Removal on Saturday to St. Patrick's Church, Monkstown, arriving for 10 o'clock. Funeral Service, followed by burial in Deans Grange Cemetery.

"Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilis."

O'CONNOR (née Langton) (Craddockstown House Nursing Home, Naas, Co. Kildare and formerly of Mount Brilliant Road, Greenshill, Kilkenny) - April 15, 2019 (peacefully), at Craddockstown House, Anastasia (Babs), beloved wife of the late Derek and cherished mother of Theresa, Miriam and Paddy; sadly missed by her loving family, sisters Chris (Grace) and Margaret (Hill), sons-in-law Michael and Maurice, grandchildren Derek, Madeline and Rebecca, nephews, nieces, extended family and friends. Rest in Peace. Funeral Mass today (Wednesday) at 10.30 o'clock in St. John's Church, Kilkenny followed by interment afterwards in St. Kieran's Cemetery, Kilkenny.

O'BRIEN, Dónal (Domhnall O Briain) (Beaumont, Dublin, Killoeglin, Co. Kerry and late of Customs and Excise) - April 13, 2019, in his 97th year, in the loving care of St. Pappin's Nursing Home, beloved husband of the late Camilla and much loved father of Deirdre, Fionnuala, Sínead and Eimear; lovingly remembered and sadly missed by his daughters, sons-in-law Paddy, Sean and Pat, Eimear's partner Patrick, grandchildren Aoife, Lorna, Eadaoin, Killian, Caoimhe, Lorcan, Malachy, Aine and Evan and Siofra and their father Shane, great-grandchildren Réaltín, Riona, Oisín, Fionn, Naoise and Róisín, brother Dermot (Fr. Basil), sister Lucinda, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, extended family, kind neighbours and his many friends. Requiem Mass this (Wednesday) morning at 10 o'clock in Church of the Nativity, Beaumont. Funeral thereafter to Fingal Cemetery.

"Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal."

RODGERS, JJ. (Alston House, Whitegate, Co. Clare) April 15, 2019 (peacefully) at Ennis County Hospital, beloved husband of Imelda (née Purcell), adored father of Mary, Michael and Paulette (Egan, Clonlara) and loving grandfather (Pop) to Finbarr, Louise, Tom, Joanne, Maria, and Ger; sadly missed by his daughter-in-law Elaine, son-in-law John, nieces, nephews, brother-in-law Dun, cousins, relatives neighbours and friends. Reposing at his home today (Wednesday) from 2 o'clock with prayers at 8 o'clock. Funeral Mass at 11.30 o'clock, tomorrow (Thursday) in St. Flannan's Church, Whitegate with burial afterwards in Clonrush Cemetery. House private on Thursday morning please.

"May His Gentle Soul Rest in Peace."

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DEATH NOTICES

UÍ RAGHALLAIGH (née Henderson), Laurie (Raheny D5, late of Ballybunion, Co. Kerry) - April 14, 2019, beloved wife of the late Seamus, loving mother of Eidin, Máire, Aine, Ciara, Colm, Eilis and Una; sadly missed by her children, sons-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, her sisters Betty, Mary and Joan, brother Jim, large extended family and friends. Funeral Mass at 10 o'clock today (Wednesday) in St. John The Evangelist Church, Foxfield, Kilbarrack followed by burial in Fingal Cemetery. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to the Breast Clinic, Beaumont at www.beaumontfundraising.ie

"Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilis"

UÍ RAGHALLAIGH, Laurie (Henderson roimh phósadh di) 14 Aibreán 2019 (Rath Eanaigh, roimhe sin Baile an Bhuinneánaigh, Co. Chiarrai). Baintreach Shéamais, máthair Eidin, Máire, Aine, Ciara, Colm, Eilis, Una. A caoineadh go géar ag a páistí, a mic cleamhnais, a hiníonacha cleamhnais, a garpháistí, a deirfiúracha Betty, Mary agus Joan, a deartháir Jim, teaghlach sinnte agus a cairde. A tórraimh inniu (Dé Máirt) i dteach tórraimh Frank Jennings, Bóthar an Ghleanntáin Ghlais, ó 3.30 o'clock go 5.15 o'clock. Tabharfar a corp go Séipéal N. Eoin Soiscéalai, Gort an tSionnaigh, Cill Bharróg ag 5.30 o'clock. Sochraid ag 10 o'clock. Dé Céadaoin, adhlacadh ina dhiaidh sin i reilg Fhine Gall. Níl aon ghá le bláthanna g.r.m.a. Deontais, más dual, ag clínic brollaigh Beaumont www.beaumontfundraising.ie

"Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilis"

IN MEMORIAM

McARDLE, Peggy - Twenty-Fourth Anniversary. In loving memory of dearest Peggy, loving wife, mother and very best friend. Always in my thoughts, Dermot.

McARDLE, Peggy - Twenty-Fourth Anniversary. Remembered always with love, Karina, Ciaran, Orlagh and Diarmuid.

BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

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Booking deadlines are as follows:-

By email:-

Monday – Friday 5.45pm

Saturday 3.45pm

Sunday 5.45pm

By Phone:-

Monday – Friday 6pm

Saturday 4pm

Sunday 6pm

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Independent.ie



LEGAL NOTICES

THE HIGH COURT
2019 No. 103 CO5
IN THE MATTER OF
GARDENING IMPULSE LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 2014

By Order dated the 8th day of April, 2019, on the Petition of Joseph Howley, Collector General, Sarsfield House, Francis Street, Limerick, it was ordered that Gardening Impulse Limited be wound up under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2014 and that Mr Myles Kirby, Insolvency Practitioner of Kirby Healy, Chartered Accountants, 3 Fitzwilliam Court, Pembroke Street, Dublin 2 be appointed Official Liquidator.

DATED this 11th day of April 2019.

Marie-Claire Maney
Revenue Solicitor and
Solicitor for the Petitioner
Ship Street Gate
Dublin Castle
Dublin 2

NOTICE

THE HIGH COURT
2018 No. 126 SA

IN THE MATTER OF THOMAS
D'ALTON A SOLICITOR, AND IN
THE MATTER OF THE
SOLICITORS ACTS 1954 TO 2015

TAKE NOTICE that by order of the President of the High Court made on 26 March 2019 that it was ordered that Thomas D'Alton Solicitor previously practising as James J Kearns & Sons Solicitors, Portumna, Co. Galway be suspended from practice until 1 April 2020

John Elliot
Registrar of Solicitors
Law Society of Ireland

8 April 2019

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED): NOTICE OF MINISTERIAL DECISION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 68(1) AND SECTION 19(A)4 OF THE ACT, IN RESPECT OF ENTITLEMENT TO CONTINUE AQUACULTURE OPERATIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 19(A)4 OF THE ACT FOR THE CULTURE OF SALMON IN CAGES AT A SITE EAST OF DEENISH ISLAND, BALLINSKELLIGS BAY, CO KERRY, T06/202 HELD BY SILVER KING SEAFOODS LIMITED, A WHOLLY OWNED COMPANY OF COMHLUCHT IASCAIREACHTA FANAD TEORANTA (MOWI IRELAND), FANAD FISHERIES, KINDRUM, FANAD, LETTERKENNY, CO DONEGAL

Following an examination by his Department of possible overharvesting, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has determined that a breach of a licence condition (condition 2(e)) of the above licence has occurred.

The Minister has determined that the statutory entitlement of Silver King Seafoods Ltd. (a wholly owned company of Comhlucht Iascaireachta Fanad Teoranta (MOWI Ireland)) to continue aquaculture operations under the provisions of Section 19(A)4 of the 1997 Fisheries (Amendment) Act is discontinued for the following reason:

Breach of condition 2(e) of the applicable aquaculture licence.

The reasons for the Minister's determination may be viewed on the Department's website: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/ministerialdecision-section68ofthefisheriesamendmentact1997/>

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notice
Application for a Dumping at Sea Permit

Notice is hereby given that Dublin Port Company has submitted an application to the Environmental Protection Agency for a permit under Section 5 of the Dumping at Sea Acts 1996 to 2010. The application is for the loading and dumping of dredged material arising from maintenance dredging proposed for 2020 and 2021. Dublin Port Company need to carry out regular maintenance dredging of the navigation channel, basins and berthing pockets in order to maintain their advertised charted depths and hence provide safe navigation for vessels to and from the Port. The loading of dredged material will be restricted to those areas of the navigation channel, basins and berthing pockets which contain sediments which are suitable for disposal at sea (Class 1: uncontaminated, no biological effects likely). It is proposed to dispose of the dredged sediments at the existing licensed offshore disposal site located at the entrance to Dublin Bay to the west of the Burford Bank, (6.75 km from the lighthouse at the end of the Great South Wall). The approximate amount of material to be dredged is 300,000 m3 per annum and it consists mostly of silt and sand with elements of clay, gravel and cobbles. Dredging will be carried out by a trailer suction hopper dredger and support vessels. It is proposed to undertake the maintenance dredging and disposal at sea operations within the period April to September 2020 and 2021. The dredging campaign within each of these periods is expected to last approximately 4-6 weeks, depending on weather conditions.

Any person wishing to make a submission, or submit observations, in respect of the granting of a permit for this proposed project should do so in writing to the Environmental Licensing Programme, Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use, Environmental Protection Agency, PO Box 3000, Johnston Castle Estate, County Wexford within 1 month of the publication of this notice. Persons making a submission, or submitting observations, in respect of this project are advised that their comments will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and will be published on the Agency's website www.epa.ie. Copies of the completed application form for this project and all supporting documentation, can be inspected at or obtained from the headquarters of the Agency, or viewed on the Agency's website: www.epa.ie. The application and supporting documentation can also be inspected at Dublin Port Centre, Alexandra Road, Dublin 1. An e-copy can be purchased from Dublin Port Company by phoning 01 8876000 during normal working hours and asking for Charlie Murphy or in his absence, Eamon McElroy. Dated this 17th day of April 2019 Michael Sheary, Company Secretary, Dublin Port Company, Port Centre, Alexandra Road, Dublin 1, Ireland

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES



Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

Notice of EIA Screening Determination

An application for consent to drill a single exploration well in the Iolar prospect under Frontier Exploration Licence (FEL 3/18) in the Porcupine Basin offshore of the south west of Ireland was received by the Petroleum Affairs Division of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment from CNOOC Petroleum Europe Limited (formerly known as Nexen Petroleum U.K. Limited), on 14th November 2018. The purpose of the exploratory well is to gather data on the reservoir characteristics, hydrocarbon presence, pressure and temperatures.

An EIA Screening Assessment of the application was carried out by the Environmental Advisory Unit of the Department pursuant to Regulation 3(1B) of the European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Petroleum Exploration) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No 134/2013) as amended by the European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Petroleum Exploration) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 124 of 2019) ('the EIA Petroleum Exploration Regulations'), taking into account the matters specified in Regulation 3(2A) of the EIA Petroleum Exploration Regulations, and in accordance with Article 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU).

An EIA Screening Determination has concluded, following screening, that the proposed drilling project is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment and, consequently, an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required in respect of the application. The Decision is contingent on the mitigation measures proposed by the Applicant being included as conditions in any drilling consent that may be granted by the Minister in respect of the application.

The EIA Screening Determination and associated documentation has been published on the Department's website. For any queries in relation to this matter please contact the Environment Advisory Unit of the Department at 01 678 2000 or at the address below.

Further information on Statutory Consents is available on the Department website at www.DCCAE.gov.ie.

Please note that the validity of the EIA Screening Determination may be questioned by Judicial Review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No.15 of 1986), as amended.

Any application for leave to apply for judicial review must be made promptly and in any event within three months from the date of the Determination.

Practical information on Judicial Review can be obtained from the Citizens Information Board, Ground Floor, George's Quay House, 43 Townsend Street, Dublin 2, www.citizensinformation.ie or from the Courts Website www.courts.ie.

Environment Advisory Unit,
Department of Communications, Climate Action
and Environment,
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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL - The Minister for Education & Skills intends to apply for planning permission for development within the grounds of the existing car park at 85/87 Main Street, Swords, County Dublin. This is a new primary school opening in September 2019 and this start-up accommodation is required to enable the school to commence operation. The development will consist of the provision of a temporary primary school by way of construction of 2No prefabricated buildings (c 282 Sq. Mtrs & 181 Sq. Mtrs) on a defined site area (c. 2184 Sq.Mtrs) to be enclosed within a 2mtrs high welded mesh fencing and access gates with associated site works. Temporary Permission for a period no longer than 5 years is being sought. The Planning Application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the Authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Authority of the application. (Ref: 18126/A09).

ACCOMMODATION

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Going: STANDARD (Polytrack)

5.45IRISH STALLION FARMS EBF MAIDEN (PLUS 10 RACE)
5f 2yo only €9,240 4 dec.

1	(1)	KING NEPTUNE	(M Tabor & D Smith & Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brien 2 9-5	D O'Brien
2	(3)	4 LISARD ZARA	(19) (Thomas Cooper) T Cooper 2 9-0	L Roche
3	(2)	SHINES HER LIGHT	(Zhang Yuesheng) Mrs J Harrington 2 9-0	S Foley
4	(4)	2 ●YESTERDAYONCEMORE	(12) (BF) (Deron Pearson & Mrs Paul Shanahan & Mrs M V Magnier) J Stack 2 9-0	C D Hayes

2018: Skitter Scatter 2 9 0, Ronan Whelan 5/1 (P J Prendergast), 5 ran.

BETTING: 10-11 King Neptune, 13-8 Yesterdayoncemore, 9 Shines Her Light, 12 Lisard Zara

6.15HEN & STAG PACKAGES AT DUNDALK STADIUM HANDICAP
5f 3yo only €6,776 10 dec.

1	(10)	9381- MISS JABEAM	(152) (B) (CD) (Newtown Downs Syndicate) A Howard 3 9-10	O Orr (3)
2	(7)	240-83 ●WILL BE KING	(47) (M Buckley) P Hayes 3 9-10	T Madden (3)
3	(3)	4222- SUNDANCE STAR	(222) (Thomas Molan) K Condon 3 9-9	W J Lee
4	(9)	6-7330 COMPTON'S FINALE	(18) (Ontoawinner Syndicate) A Keatley 3 9-6	L Roche
5	(6)	8530- SUNSET NOVA	(180) (Men Of Forty Eight Syndicate) A Slattery 3 9-5	B Coen (5)
6	(5)	72581- EMILY GRACE	(173) (B) (CD) (Paul Cullen) M Grassick 3 8-13	K Leonard (3)
7	(8)	73704- JARROCHO	(161) (T) (City Equine II Syndicate) D Marnane 3 8-12	MA Gallagher
8	(2)	269-68 DANDY BELLE	(8) (B) (Equine XI Syndicate) R O'Brien 3 8-10	C D Hayes
9	(4)	3254-3 ASSOCIATE ROCK	(26) (H) (Gerard Jude Murphy) T Cleary 3 8-9	R P Cleary
10	(1)	86377- OLAY POWER	(161) (H) (Mrs S Power) E Lynam 3 8-7	D Sheehy (5)

2018: Gottardo 3 9 8, Mike O'Connor 10 5/1 (J A Stack), 8 ran.

BETTING: 9-2 Dandy Belle, 11-2 Miss Jabeam, 6 Compton's Finale, Emily Grace, 13-2 Sundance Star, 8 Others

6.45DUNDALK STADIUM BUSINESS CLUB 2019 CLAIMING RACE
6f 4yo plus €6,160 7 dec.

1	(6)	221/0 HATHIQ	(18) (T) (D) (James McAuley) D Hogan 5 9-9	R P Cleary
2	(1)	4380-0 BLUESBREAKER	(33) (TB) (C.D.) (Singing The Blues Syndicate) R O'Sullivan 7 9-4	R P Whelan
4	(4)	842439 ●KASBAH	(18) (V) (C.D.) (Dooleys & O'Sullivan Partnership) A McGuinness 7 9-4	CT Keane
3	(3)	3-8223 AR SAOIRSE	(19) (BF) (Sheikh The Reins Syndicate) D Marnane 4 9-2	O Orr (3)
5	(5)	3745-9 DOWNTOWN DIVA	(11) (B) (Jack W Davison) J Davison 4 9-0	B Coen (5)
6	(2)	225437 YOUR PAL TAL	(12) (V) (CD) (Jason McGannon) J Levins 9 8-13	W M Lordan
7	(7)	0-4940 SEANIE	(19) (B) (CD) (Gary Ryan) K Thornton 10 8-12	D P McDonogh

2018: Seanie 9 9 2, Declan McDonogh 7/2 (David Marnane), 9 ran.

BETTING: 11-8 Kasbah, 9-2 Hathiq, 11-2 Ar Saoirse, 13-2 Bluesbreaker, Your Pal Tal, 12 Downtown Diva, Seanie

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

NEWMARKET

Going: GOOD TO FIRM (Good in places; watered; 8.3)

1.15 (1m mdn): 1, MAQSDAD (Siyouni-Amerique) (J Crowley) 6/4fav; 2, Twist 'N' Shake (Kingman-Hippy Hippy Shake) 2/1; 3, Artistic Streak (New Approach-Artist) 14/1; 10 ran. shd, 9. (W Haggas). **Total:** Win €8.40; PL €2.20, €3.30, €2.50; Exacta €89.90; CSF €67.28; Tricast €489.63 Trifecta €677.80

1.50 (6f hcap): 1, FLAVIUS TITUS (Lethal Force-Furbelow) (A Atzeni) 8/1; 2, Summerghand (Lope De Vega-Kate The Great) 8/1; 3, Green Power (Kheyley-Hakuraa) 7/1fav; 15 ran. nk, nk. (R Varian). **Total:** Win €8.60; PL €2.20, €3.30, €2.50; Exacta €89.90; CSF €67.28; Tricast €489.63 Trifecta €677.80

2.25 (7f hcap 1std): 1, SHINE SO BRIGHT (Oasis Dream-Alla Speranza) (S De Sousa) 5/2; 2, Space Traveller (Bated Breath-Sky Crystal) 10/1. Also: Azano 2/1fav; 7 ran. 1 3/4, 3 1/2. (A Balding). **Total:** Win €3.30; PL €1.60, €4.40; Exacta €22.70; CSF €25.74; Trifecta €83.40

3.00 (1mf1std): 1, KICK ON (Charm Spirit-Marika) (O Murphy) 2/1; 2, Walkinthesand (Footstepsinthesand-Masseera) 14/1. Also: Western Australia 6/4fav; Non-runner: Spanish Mission. 6 ran. nk, 4 1/2. (J Gosden). **Total:** Win €2.90; PL €2.30, €3.90; Exacta €25.00;

CSF €27.29; Trifecta €97.00

3.35 (7f gr3): 1, QABALA (Scat Daddy-Entwine) (David Egan) 100/30fav; 2, Mot Juste (Distorted Humor-Time) 7/1; 3, Angel's Hideaway (Dark Angel-The Hermitage) 9/2; 11 ran. 1 3/4, 3/4. (R Varian). **Total:** Win €4.30; PL €1.80, €2.20, €2.40; Exacta €26.50; CSF €25.78; Trifecta €141.40

4.10 (5f mdn): 1, CHASING DREAMS (Starspangledbanner-A Huge Dream) (W Buick) 4/9fav; 2, Good Vibes (Due Diligence-Satsuma) 12/1; Non-runner: Aroha. 5 ran. 5, 2 3/4. (C Appleby). **Total:** Win €1.30; PL €1.10, €3.90; Exacta €6.30; CSF €7.10; Trifecta €11.50

4.45 (1m mdn): 1, LAVENDER'S BLUE (Sea The Stars-Beatrice Aurore) (R Havlin) 3/1; 2, Maamora (Dubawi-Zoowraa) 2/1fav; 3, Alandalos (Invincible Spirit-Ghanaati) 11/4; Non-runner: Fast Strike. 9 ran. 2 1/2, 4 1/2. (Mrs A Perrett). **Total:** Win €4.10; PL €1.30, €1.10, €2.00; Exacta €10.20; CSF €9.26; Trifecta €28.10

5.20 (1m2f hcap): 1, SOLID STONE (Shamardal-Landmark) (R L Moore) 9/4fav; 2, War Tiger (War Front-Quarter Moon) 3/1; 5 ran. 1/2, 2 3/4. (Sir M Stoute). **Total:** Win €2.90; PL €1.60, €1.60; Exacta €9.00; CSF €9.38; Trifecta €25.50

JACKPOT €3,688.50 to a £1 stake. Pool: £25,819.89 - 7.0 winning units

	CURRAGH CORR	TRAV CORR
5.45	Yesterdayoncemore	King Neptune
6.15	Jarrocho	Associate Rock
6.45	Kasbah	Kasbah
7.15	Nisior Donn	Silk Cravat
7.45	Tennessee Waltz	All The Mollies
8.15	Pearlman	Dunkirk Harbour (nap)
8.45	Rockfish	Sharjah

7.15LMFM DUAL RACE NIGHT FRIDAY 3RD MAY HANDICAP
7f 4yo plus €6,776 12 dec.

1	(1)	414907 HEE HAW	(12) (P) (C) (Mark Devlin) A McGuinness 5 10-0	Daire Davis (10)
2	(10)	-12513 ●NISIOR DONN	(8) (T) (CD) (Darren Cahill) G Cromwell 5 10-0	D O'Connor (3)
3	(2)	-68525 SILK CRAVAT	(4) (C.D.) (B Geoghegan) J Geoghegan 6 10-0	B Coen (5)
4	(11)	13560- A LIKELY STORY	(185) (P) (CD) (John P McGovern) T McCourt 6 9-8	CT Keane
5	(7)	7-2450 DOLLAR VALUE	(26) (P) (D) (P Jordan) T McCourt 4 9-7	C D Maxwell (3)
6	(4)	000-33 FIVEHUNDREDMILES	(12) (P) (Miss Nicole McKenna) J Lambe 6 9-6	Gavin Ryan (7)
7	(12)	1660-0 NAILED ON NINA	(8) (Maureen Nudds) P Martin 4 9-6	MA Gallagher
8	(5)	000-05 PUSHAQ	(33) (HT) (Miss Rita Shah) A McCann 6 9-5	D Sheehy (5)
9	(9)	5413-5 FOOTSTEPS AT DAWN	(12) (T) (C) (A Martin) S Nolan 4 9-2	O Orr (3)
10	(6)	8007-0 PHOENIX LIGHTNING	(8) (T) (Leaveitouthorse Syndicate) R O'Sullivan 4 9-0	W M Lordan
11	(8)	0485-4 ARCANEOCHO	(3) (Moyleclear Syndicate) T Cleary 4 8-11	R P Cleary
12	(3)	307575 THREE MAJORS	(19) (B) (CD) (Miss Rita Shah) A McCann 6 8-6	K Leonard (3)

2018: A Likely Story 5 8 6, Danny Sheehy 5 10/1 (T G McCourt), 14 ran.

BETTING: 3 Nisior Donn, 11-2 Silk Cravat, 6 Footsteps At Dawn, 7 A Likely Story, Fivehundredmiles,

10 Arcanecho, Hee Haw, 14 Three Majors, 16 Dollar Value, Nailed On Nina, Pushaq, 20 Others

7.45CROWNE PLAZA RACE & STAY APPRENTICE HANDICAP
1m 3yo plus €6,160 10 dec.

1	(3)	482-18 CAUTIOUS APPROACH	(18) (CD) (Cautious Approach Syndicate) R O'Brien 4 10-0	D O'Connor
2	(6)	215320 MULZAMM	(8) (CD) (James McAuley) D Hogan 7 9-13	J M Sheridan (4)
3	(5)	9155-2 ●TENNESSE WALTZ	(26) (B) (CD) (Ms Melanie Marnane) D Marnane 8 9-12	O Orr
4	(4)	700-80 POETIC CHOICE	(12) (B) (CD) (Phoenix Platinum Syndicate) K Clarke 8 9-8	A Persse (4)
5	(9)	00-95 INGELARA	(40) (T) (Miss Sarah O'Brien) J P O'Brien 4 9-2	S Crosse
6	(10)	707-40 RED BLOODEDCRUISER	(14) (Red Green & White Syndicate) S Nolan 3 9-1	T Madden
7	(2)	0-6466 LADY ROSEBUD	(12) (CD) (Derek Molloy) P Martin 5 8-13	Gavin Ryan (4)
8	(8)	4690-4 ALL THE MOLLIES	(12) (Go Golfin Syndicate) Mrs D Love 5 8-12	K Leonard
9	(1)	00-000 ROCKAFILLY	(42) (B) (J A Nash) J Nash 4 8-9	C O'Dwyer (7)
10	(7)	006-85 FILM NOIR	(33) (B) (Sarah Lynam & Ms Aileen Lynam) S Lynam 3 8-7	D Sheehy

2018: Poetic Choice 7 9 13, Robbie Downey 7/1 (Keith Henry Clarke), 14 ran.

BETTING: 3 Ingelara, 9-2 Red Bloodedcruiser, 6 Tennessee Waltz, 13-2 Cautious Approach, 8 All The Mollies, Poetic Choice, 10 Lady Rosebud, Mulzamm, 14 Film Noir, 20 Others

PL €1.10, €1.40, €2.00; Exacta €5.40; CSF €5.59; Trifecta €14.60

3.50 (3m6f)/zf hcap chs): 1, ONE OF US (Presenting-One Gulp) (S Twiston-Davies) 9/2; 2, Sandhurst Lad (Presenting-Off She Goes) 7/1; 3, You Say What (Milan-Wave Back) 4/1fav; 11 ran. 2, 3/4. (N Williams). **Total:** Win €5.60; PL €1.80, €2.50, €2.10; Exacta €45.20; CSF €36.60; Tricast €137.35 Trifecta €205.10

4.25 (2m3f hcap chs): 1, TUDORS TREASURE (Dr Massini-Rude Health) (T O'Brien) 11/4fav; 2, Kingston Mimosa (Kheyley-Derartu) 8/1; 3, Rule The Ocean (Stowaway-Page Ten) 11/2; 10 ran. 1, 11. (R Stephens). **Total:** Win €3.70; PL €1.70, €2.30, €1.90; Exacta €21.40; CSF €24.57; Tricast €113.60 Trifecta €102.90

5.00 (3m nov hntch): 1, THEATRE TERRITORY (King's Theatre-Specifiedrisk) (Mr S Waley-cohen) 1/4fav; 2, Drumlynn (Definite Article-Miss Florida) 13/2; 6 ran. 3, 15. (W Greatrex). **Total:** Win €1.20; PL €1.10, €1.90; Exacta €2.90; CSF €2.82; Trifecta €10.70

5.35 (2mf1f mdn nhf): 1, MERCHANT HOUSE (Fairly Ransom-Skyra) (Miss Millie Wonnacott) 20/1; 2, Full Of Roque (Blue Bresil-Pearl De La Roque) 12/1; 3, Grumpy Charley (Shiocco-Whisky Rose) 100/30. Also: Whenhellbrokeloose 5/2fav; 11 ran. 3, 3 3/4. (L Jefford). **Total:** Win €27.10; PL €8.00, €4.30, €1.30; Exacta €396.00; CSF €239.97; Trifecta €2897.40

PLACEPOT €10.60 to a £1 stake. Pool: £80,210.56 -

LIVE ON RACING TV

- TOP TRACK TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: (2014-19): M Halford 127-715, A P O'Brien 74-349, Joseph Patrick O'Brien 72-492, Adrian McGuinness 49-428, David Marnane 35-332, J F Levins 24-341.
- TOP TRACK JOCKEYS WITH RIDES: (2014-19): C T Keane 114-731, S Foley 89-733, D O'Brien 67-359.
- HOT TRAINERS: (best win-runs % in last 14 days): David Marnane 2-3 (67%), Karl Thornton 2-8 (25%).
- FAVOURITES: (2014-19): 527 wins from 1450 races (success rate 36.3%). At previous corresponding meetings, 7 have won out of 22 races (31.8%).

8.15AVENUE INN MAIDEN
1m21/2f 3yo only €7,700 5 dec.

1	(3)	07-3 ●DUNKIRK HARBOUR	(18) (Mrs J Magnier & M Tabor & D Smith) A P O'Brien 3 9-5	D O'Brien
2	(5)	00-0 LETHAL ENDEAVOUR	(10) (Brendan O'Sullivan) A Slattery 3 9-5	B Coen (5)
3	(2)	3-2 PEARLMAN	(26) (Godolphin) M Halford 3 9-5	R P Whelan
4	(1)	0- LADY OF LUXURY	(260) (Jeffrey Fox) M McNiff 3 9-0	L Roche
5	(4)	03- MALLACOOTA	(172) (R Scarborough) Mrs J Harrington 3 9-0	S Foley

2018: Ming 3 9 5, Donnacha O'Brien 14/1 (Joseph Patrick O'Brien), 7 ran.

BETTING: 10-11 Dunkirk Harbour, 15-8 Mallacoota, 4 Pearlman, 20 Others

8.45DUNDALK STADIUM - LIGHT UP YOUR NIGHT HANDICAP
1m4f 4yo plus €6,160 14 dec.

1	(14)	4-5353 ALCANDER	(26) (T) (CD) (Madfish Racing Club) F Flood 6 10-0	K J Manning
2	(4)	-08045 ROCKFISH	(3) (P) (C) (J Carthy) J P O'Brien 4 9-13	H Horgan (10)
3	(7)	723-80 EARL OF BUNNACURRY	(18) (Exors of the late Mrs N Lynch) G Cromwell 5 9-12	G F Carroll
4	(9)	40743- BRUINNEALL	(497) (Mrs K F Cleary) T Cleary 5 9-11	R P Cleary
5	(8)	050-07 GLENBANK KING	(3) (B) (D) (Victor Robinson) L Smyth 11 9-9	C D Maxwell (3)
6	(3)	078/9- LEAN AND KEEN	(31J) (B) (C) (Seamus McConnon) S Byrne 9 9-5	T Madden (3)
7	(2)	662323 SHARJAH	(3) (B) (CD) (Mrs S Slattery) A Slattery 9 9-5	A Slattery (7)
8	(10)	88-96 JAZZY J	(3) (T) (Ballybayfordrinkintae Syndicate) A McCann 4 9-4	D Sheehy (5)
9	(13)	69/0-3 MISTINESS	(12) (B) (Phoenix Platinum Syndicate) K Clarke 8 9-3	R C Colgan
10	(12)	47-155 MISS LOUISE	(12) (CD) (A Casey) Mrs D Love 4 9-1	K Leonard (3)
11	(1)	6-6434 DAYEREH	(12) (T) (Queen Maeve Racing Club) M McNiff 5 9-0	D P McDonogh
12	(11)	0/09-9 SHOOFLY	(103) (D) (Miss Natalia Lupini) Miss N Lupini 6 9-0	S Foley
13	(5)	93880- ●LADY MAGDALA	(25J) (P) (An Stil Beatha Syndicate) P McCreery 5 8-8	L Roche
14	(6)	/00-00 LANGHAM	(61) (P) (G Buggle) D J Barry 6 8-8	N Crosse (7)

2018: Schoolboy Error 5 9 6, Chris Hayes 9/2 (Shane Nolan), 11 ran.

BETTING: 9-2 Sharjah, 11-2 Dayereh, Mistiness, 7 Alcander, 8 Miss Louise, Rockfish, 9 Others

TRIPLET'S TAKE THESE

3 Silk Cravat (7.15) has been knocking on the door
All The Mollies (7.45) can go well at a decent price
Dunkirk Harbour (8.15) will relish the trip

5,494.73 winning units

QUADPOT €3.20 to a £1 stake. Pool: £8,292.99 - 1,916.82 winning units

WOLVERHAMPTON

(A.W)

Going: TAPETA: STANDARD

5.45 (1m)/zf hcap): 1, AMOR FATI (Zoffany-Roman Love) (Nicola Currie) 11/4Jfav; 2, Aqua Libre (Aqlaam-Be Free) 15/2; 3, Captain Marmalade (Duke Of Marmalade-Elisium) 100/1. Also: Stand N Deliver 11/4Jfav; Non-runners: Ubla, Cape Agulhas. 11 ran. nk, 1. (P D Evans). **Total:** Win €3.40; PL €1.80, €2.50, €12.80; Exacta €33.70; CSF €25.74; Tricast €1745.31 Trifecta €3749.80

6.15 (7f hcap): 1, MAGICAL MOLLY JOE (Arabian Gleam-Magical Music) (P J McDonald) 9/4fav; 2, Naralsalif (Arcano-Mejala) 8/1; 3, Clement (Clodovil-Winnifred) 7/1; 12 ran. nk, 1/2. (T D Barron). **Total:** Win €2.60; PL €1.10, €2.60, €2.70; Exacta €20.70; CSF €21.21; Tricast €11716 Trifecta €133.70

6.45 (7f): 1, INVITATIONAL (Poet's Voice-Platinum Pearl) (J Mitchell) 13/2; 2, Astrologer (Intello-Starscope) 40/1; 3, Vivionn (Dubawi-Giants Play) 9/4.

Also: Nooshin Evensfav; Non-runner: Lady Madison. 11 ran. 2 3/4, 1 1/2. (R Varian). **Total:** Win €7.60; PL €1.80, €10.80, €1.10; Exacta €300.30; CSF €236.36; Trifecta €1098.30

7.15 (5f): 1, CORINTHIA KNIGHT (Society Rock-Victoria Lodge) (Hollie Doyle) 9/2; 2, Storm Over (Elnadim-Stormy View) 14/1. Also: Kyllang Rock 6/5fav; 7 ran. 1 1/4, shd. (A Watson). **Total:** Win €5.20; PL €2.50, €6.30; Exacta €59.50; CSF €62.06; Trifecta €254.40

7.45 (2m)/zf hcap): 1, SEINESATIONAL (Champs Elysees-Kibara) (David Egan) 11/4; 2, Knight Commander (Sir Percy-Jardin) 8/1. Also: Alabaster 5/2fav; 7 ran. nk, 2. (W Knight). **Total:** Win €4.50; PL €2.50, €3.00; Exacta €27.90; CSF €25.31; Trifecta €80.60

8.15 (1m1/2f hcap): 1, THA'IR (New Approach-Flashing Green) (D Brock) 8/1; 2, Splash Of Verve (Fast Company-Ellistown Lady) 15/2; 3, First Call (Shamardal-Reponds Moi) 3/1fav; 13 ran. 1 1/4, nk. (P McBride). **Total:** Win €10.10; PL €3.30, €3.00, €1.80; Exacta €68.80; CSF €66.62; Tricast €225.49 Trifecta €273.30

PLACEPOT €238.20 to a £1 stake. Pool: £107,190.68 - 328.38 winning units

QUADPOT €51.80 to a £1 stake. Pool: €14,132.06 - 201.57 winning units

READER COMPETITION

WIN A TRIP TO THE OPENING DAY OF THE PUNCESTOWN FESTIVAL

To celebrate the launch of the 2019 Puncestown Festival, running Tuesday 30th April to Saturday 4th May, one lucky winner will enjoy a VIP day at the Puncestown Festival! Prize includes a pair of Reserved Enclosure tickets to the opening day of the festival, €100 Tote betting voucher, an overnight stay at luxurious 4 star Osprey Hotel in Naas with breakfast included along with complimentary pre Puncestown Bottomless Bubbles Brunch for 2 on Tuesday. Plus, four lucky runners up will win a pair of tickets to the opening day of the festival, Tuesday 30th April.

To enter, complete this form and post to
PUNCESTOWN VIP COMPETITION, PO BOX 11, INDEPENDENT HOUSE, 27-32 TALBOT ST., DUBLIN 1.

Closing date for receipt of print entry form is Wednesday, April 24th. A full list of terms and conditions are available on www.independent.ie/puncestownvip

You can also enter by visiting www.independent.ie/puncestownvip and using the unique code **PUNCESTOWN**

Please circle the correct answer to the following question:

The 2019 Puncestown Festival opens on which date?

a) April 30th b) May 1st c) May 2nd

Name _____

Address _____

Contact Number _____

For all festival information visit www.puncestown.com or call the team on **045 897704**



Sport Racing

NEWMARKET

(ROI -1560 600 760. NI-0901 2930 845)












€1.27/ £1.02 p/min. Calls from other networks and mobile cost more. 18+. SP Phonovation Ltd. Helpline 0818 217 100

Going: GOOD TO FIRM (Good in places)

LIVE ON RACING TV

1.50 BET365 HANDICAP (2) ITV4

6f 3yo only £16,173 11 dec.

	1	21232- MOYASSAR (168) (W) (D,BF)	3 9-7 J Crowley 103
Runs: 6	(7)	R Hannon	Prize Money: £23,331
	Wins: 1 STD	Places: 4	
	2	24135- JACK'S POINT (155)	3 9-6 M Dwyer 106
Runs: 5	(5)	W Muir	Prize Money: £20,727
	Wins: 1 STD	Places: 3	
	3	813- BREATH OF AIR (172) (D)	3 9-2 R L Moore 103
Runs: 3	(1)	C Hills	Prize Money: £9,687
	Wins: 1 GS	Places: 1	
	4	3475-2 ●CHAPELLI (8)	3 9-2 James Doyle ★111
Runs: 8	(2)	M Johnston	Prize Money: £23,101
	Wins: 2 GD,GF	Places: 1	
	5	55-436 DON ARMADO (46) (T) (D)	3 9-1 R Kingscote 106
Runs: 12	(8)	S C Williams	Prize Money: £34,273
	Wins: 2 GF	Places: 2	
	6	1140-4 OBERYN MARTELL (55) (D)	3 9-1 C Bishop 104
Runs: 6	(10)	E Houghton	Prize Money: £14,682
	Wins: 2 GF	Places: 1	
	7	1126- YOUSINI (217) (W)	3 9-0 T Eaves 105
Runs: 4	(3)	K A Ryan	Prize Money: £14,942
	Wins: 2 GF	Places: 1	
	8	1219- NAUGHTY RASCAL (172) (D)	3 9-0 T Marquand 103
Runs: 9	(9)	R Hannon	Prize Money: £13,963
	Wins: 2 STD,GD	Places: 1	
	9	22240- ALFIE SOLOMONS (193)	3 8-13 T Queally 107
Runs: 9	(11)	Richard Spencer	Prize Money: £73,342
	Wins: 1 STD	Places: 3	
	10	12-1 TOP BREEZE (23) (D)	3 8-9 S W Kelly 103
Runs: 3	(6)	R Hughes	Prize Money: £10,799
	Wins: 2 ST/SLW,STD	Places: 0	
	11	3175- SHEILA'S SHOWCASE (191)	3 8-4 David Egan 105
Runs: 4	(4)	D Coakley	Prize Money: £3,865
	Wins: 1 GD	Places: 0	

2018: Maybride 3 8 10, Oisín Murphy 6/1 (R Fahey), 9 ran.

BETTING: 5-2 Breath Of Air, 5 Chapelli, Moyassar, 7 Top Breeze, 11 Yousini, 12 Obyern Martell, 14 Alfie Solomons, Don Armado, Naughty Rascal, 16 Jack's Point, 20 Others













FORM SCAN

BREATH OF AIR 5/1 (9-1) close up, effort over 2f out, soon led and ridden, green, edged left and headed approaching final furlong, kept on same pace, 3rd of 9, 4/1/2 behind San Donato (9-1) at Doncaster 6f 1std gs in Oct 2018. **CHAPELLI** 13/2 (9-7) tracked leader, effort over 2f out, ridden to lead 1 1/2f out, driven inside final furlong, headed and no extra last 50yds, 2nd of 11, 1/2 behind Ventura Ocean (8-11) at Pontefract 6f hcap gf in Apr. **MOYASSAR** 6/4F (9-10) in touch, ridden 2f out, quickened to chase winner over 1f out, ran on and strong challenge inside final furlong, held final strides, 2nd of 7, shd behind She Can Boogie (8-10) at Nottingham 5f hcap gf in Oct 2018. **TOP BREEZE** 4/6F (9-9) led, headed over 3f out, chased leader, led again over 1f out, pushed out, won at Wolverhampton (A.W) 5f st beating Sound Of Iona (8-11) by 1 1/2l. 11 ran. **YOUSINI** 7/1 (9-1) dwelt, held up, headway and tracked leader 3f out, ridden over 1f out, weakened inside final furlong, 6th of 7, 9/4 behind Khaadem (8-13) at Doncaster 6f gs in Sep 2018. **OBERYN MARTELL** 10/1 (9-3) led, ridden over 1f out, headed well inside final furlong, 4th of 8, 1/4 behind Liberation Day (8-9) at Wolverhampton (A.W) 6f hcap st in Feb. **ALFIE SOLOMONS** 33/1 (9-2) midfield near side, ridden over 2f out, soon weakened, 20th of 21, 25l behind Summer Daydream (8-9) at Redcar 6f 1std gd in Oct 2018. **DON ARMADO** 12/1 (9-2) held up, shaken up over 2f out, soon weakened and eased, 6th of 6, 38l behind Fanaar (9-2) at Lingfield (A.W) 7f 1std st in Mar.

CAPT KEEN	TRAV CORR
1.50 Chapelli	Breath Of Air
2.25 UAE Jewel	Al Hadeer
3.00 Gifted Master	Brando
3.35 Confiding	Royal Marine
4.10 Handmaiden	Clerisy
4.45 El Misk	El Misk
5.20 Gold At Midnight	Karnavaal

2.25 BET365 WOOD DITTON MAIDEN STAKES (PLUS 10 RACE) (3) ITV4

1m 3yo only £9,703 12 dec.

	1	AL HADEER	3 9-5 J Crowley -
Runs: 0	(2)	W Haggas	Prize Money: £0
	Wins: 0	Places: 0	
	2	DAMLAJ	3 9-5 D O'Neill -
Runs: 0	(4)	O Burrows	Prize Money: £0
	Wins: 0	Places: 0	
	3	DESERT ICON	3 9-5 James Doyle -
Runs: 5	(5)	W Haggas	Prize Money: £0
	Wins: 0	Places: 0	
	4	GEOMATRICIAN	3 9-5 D Probert -
Runs: 0	(7)	A Balding	Prize Money: £0
	Wins: 0	Places: 0	
	5	JUNOOH	3 9-5 R L Moore -
Runs: 3	(3)	Sir M Stoute	Prize Money: £0
	Wins: 0	Places: 0	
	6	KUNG FU	3 9-5 S De Sousa -
Runs: 0	(1)	S Crisford	Prize Money: £0
	Wins: 0	Places: 0	
	7	MUTARAFFA (H ¹)	3 9-5 R Kingscote -
Runs: 0	(9)	C Hills	Prize Money: £0
	Wins: 0	Places: 0	
	8	SAMBA SARAVAH	3 9-5 J Watson -
Runs: 0	(6)	J Nosedá	Prize Money: £0
	Wins: 0	Places: 0	
	9	UAE JEWEL	3 9-5 A Atzeni -
Runs: 0	(11)	R Varian	Prize Money: £0
	Wins: 0	Places: 0	
	10	WILD ANIMAL	3 9-5 C Soumillon -
Runs: 0	(8)	S bin Suroor	Prize Money: £0
	Wins: 0	Places: 0	
	11	CAESONIA	3 9-0 J P Spencer -
Runs: 0	(12)	C Hills	Prize Money: £0
	Wins: 0	Places: 0	
	12	INSPIRATIONAL	3 9-0 D Muscutt -
Runs: 0	(10)	E Dunlop	Prize Money: £0
	Wins: 0	Places: 0	

2018: Sawwaah 3 9 5, Dane O'Neill 25/1 (O Burrows), 19 ran.

BETTING: 9-2 Al Hadeer, 5 UAE Jewel, 11-2 Junooh, Wild Animal, 8 Samba Saravah, 9 Geomatrician, 10 Desert Icon, Kung Fu, 12 Damlaj, 16 Caesonia, 20 Others

3.00 CONNAUGHT ACCESS FLOORING ABERNANT STAKES (GROUP 3) (1) ITV4

6f 3yo plus £34,026 8 dec.

	1	42824- BRANDO (179) (CD)	7 9-7 T Eaves ★126
Runs: 30	(6)	K A Ryan	Prize Money: £683,586
	Wins: 8 GD,SFT,GS,GF	Places: 11	
	2	/1267- DREAMFIELD (235) (C,D,BF)	5 9-7 James Doyle 123
Runs: 6	(1)	J Gosden	Prize Money: £58,423
	Wins: 3 GS,GF	Places: 1	
	3	8144-3 EQUILATERAL (18) (D,BF)	4 9-7 R L Moore 118
Runs: 9	(3)	C Hills	Prize Money: £25,559
	Wins: 3 GS,GF	Places: 1	
	4	0155-6 ●GIFTED MASTER (39) (B) (CD)	6 9-7 J Watson 124
Runs: 29	(4)	H Palmer	Prize Money: £754,574
	Wins: 11 GF,GD,GS,STD	Places: 2	

BETTING: 4 Rene's Girl, 5 Kings Monarch, Wenyereadyfreddie, 6 Highway One O One, Mister Whitaker, 13-2 Imperial Presence, 12 Tiquer, 14 Others

	3	-22117 WENYERREADYFREDDIE (109) (BF)	8 11-8 N De Boinvill 159
Runs: 11	(N)	Henderson	Prize Money: £33,251
	Wins: 3 SFT,GD	Places: 5	
	4	25-240 ●TREE OF LIBERTY (33)	7 11-5 R Patrick (3) 161
Runs: 15	(K)	Lee	Prize Money: £33,774
	Wins: 3 GD,SFT	Places: 6	
	5	214320 HIGHWAY ONE O ONE (36)	7 11-5 T Cannon 160
Runs: 19	(C)	Gordon	Prize Money: £88,823
	Wins: 6 GS,SFT	Places: 5	
	6	12-472 RENE'S GIRL (109) (T) (D)	9 11-4 H Skelton ★161
Runs: 20	(D)	D Skelton	Prize Money: £133,013
	Wins: 6 GS,SFT,GD	Places: 6	
	7	-P5123 GOT AWAY (25) (TP) (D)	6 10-11 L Aspell 161
Runs: 22	(O)	O Sherwood	Prize Money: £148,298
	Wins: 5 HVXSFT,SFT,GD	Places: 2	
	8	/714-4 TIQUER (130) (W) (D)	11 10-4 T O'Brien 158
Runs: 21	(A)	Jones	Prize Money: £48,111
	Wins: 4 SFT	Places: 2	
	9	4-5011 KINGS MONARCH (39) (D)	6 10-4 J E Moore 159
Runs: 10	(K)	Lee	Prize Money: £10,341
	Wins: 3 GD,GS	Places: 0	

2018: Traffic Fluide (FR) 8 10 4, Josh Moore 13/2F (G L Moore), 16 ran.



BETTING: 4 Rene's Girl, 5 Kings Monarch, Wenyereadyfreddie, 6 Highway One O One, Mister Whitaker, 13-2 Imperial Presence, 12 Tiquer, 14 Others





FORM SCAN

RENE'S GIRL 9/2 (11-2) led, ridden and headed 3 out, stayed on same pace approaching last, 2nd of 5, 3/4 behind Lady Buttons (11-0) at Doncaster 2m4/2f 1std Chs gd in Dec 2018. **KINGS MONARCH** 6/5F (11-2) held up, headway before 2 out, 10th of 20, 43l behind A Plus Tard (11-5) at Cheltenham 2m4f hcap 1std nov Chs sft in Mar. **MISTER WHITAKER** 8/1C (11-8) held up towards rear, not really travelling 2nd circuit, tailed off when pulled up before 2 out, pulled up of 24, behind Beware The Bear (11-8) at Cheltenham 3m1f hcap gr3 Chs sft in Mar.

3.15 KINGSTON STUD HANDICAP HURDLE (2)

2m41/2f 4yo plus £15,475 15 dec.

	1	53P214 UNISON (60) J Scott 9 11-12	Matt Griffiths
Runs: 15	(2)	0-1432 JENKINS (23) (B) (D) N Henderson 7 11-11	D Bass
	Wins: 4 GS,SFT,GD	Places: 4	
	2	-22261 I'M A GAME CHANGER (109) (D) P Hobbs 7 11-9	R Johnson
Runs: 14	(4)	41P-81 LE PATRIOTE (165) (P) (D) Dr R Newland 7 11-8	S Twiston-Davies

	5	/98-18 KEYSTROKE (39) (T) (D)	7 9-7 A Kirby 116
Runs: 18	(7)	S C Williams	Prize Money: £91,876
	Wins: 6 SFT,GS,STD,ST/SL	Places: 2	
	6	113-55 SIR THOMAS GRESHAM (51) (T ¹) (CD,BF)	4 9-7 M Dwyer 111
Runs: 5	(8)	T Pinfield	Prize Money: £15,204
	Wins: 2 SFT	Places: 1	
	7	11607- TIME'S ARROW (213) (D)	5 9-7 D Tudhope 115
Runs: 17	(2)	D O'Meara	Prize Money: £86,363
	Wins: 5 GF,STD,GD	Places: 4	
	8	12217- YAFTA (242) (CD)	4 9-7 J Crowley 121
Runs: 11	(5)	R Hannon	Prize Money: £108,310
	Wins: 4 GD,STD,GF	Places: 5	

2018: Brando 6 9 7, T Eaves 9/2 (K A Ryan), 8 ran.







BETTING: 6-4 Brando, 3 Dreamfield, 5 Yافتا, 7 Equilateral, Gifted Master, 20 Others

FORM SCAN

BRANDO 13/2 (9-2) held up well in touch, pulled out and driven over 1f out, disputed 3rd final furlong but never able to challenge, one pace last 100yds, 4th of 14, 23/4l behind Sands Of Mali (9-1) at Ascot 6f gr1 sft in Oct 2018. **DREAMFIELD** 11/10F (9-1) soon led centre group, raced freely, overall leader over 2f out, ridden and headed well over 1f out, soon hung left, weakened inside final furlong, last of 4 in group, 7th of 7, 11l behind Limato (9-1) at Newmarket (July) 6f 1std gf in Aug 2018. **YAFTA** 6/1 (9-1) tracked leader until well over 1f out, soon ridden and lost place, weakened final furlong, 7th of 8, 7/4l behind Sir Dancelot (9-9) at Newbury 7f gr2 gd in Aug 2018. **EQUILATERAL** 11/4F (9-8) tracked leaders, pushed along and slightly outpaced over 2f out, switched right and ridden over 1f out, kept on under pressure final furlong, 3rd of 8, 23/4l behind Invincible Army (9-8) at Doncaster 6f 1std gd in Mar. **GIFTED MASTER** 12/1 (9-0) always mid-division, 6th of 11, 9/4l behind Blue Point (9-0) at Meydan 6f gr3 gd in Mar. **TIME'S ARROW** 24/1 (9-2) towards rear, pushed along between rivals over 2f out, limited response and soon ridden, no impression and kept on one pace towards finish, never dangerous, 7th of 11, 4/1/2 behind Tornibush (9-2) at Longchamp 7f gr3 gd in Sep 2018. **KEYSTROKE** 10/1 (9-3) held up, ridden over 1f out, weakened and eased inside final furlong, 8th of 8, 9l behind Above The Rest (9-3) at Wolverhampton (A.W) 7f 1std st in Mar. **SIR THOMAS GRESHAM** 3/1F (9-7) led, shaken up over 1f out, ridden and headed well inside final furlong, no extra, 5th of 9, 3l behind Merhoob (9-1) at Wolverhampton (A.W) 6f hcap st in Feb.

3.35 BET365 CRAVEN STAKES (GROUP 3) ITV4

1m 3yo only £34,026 10 dec.

	1	133- CONFIDING (228)	3 9-0 R Hornby 119
Runs: 3	(7)	M Meade	Prize Money: £31,687
	Wins: 1 GF	Places: 1	
	2	1-11 GLOBAL SPECTRUM (53)	3 9-0 G Mosse 107
Runs: 3	(6)	Miss G Kelleway	Prize Money: £19,967
	Wins: 3 ST/SLW,GD	Places: 0	
	3	1-1 JACKSTAR (22) (C)	3 9-0 R Kingscote 103
Runs: 2	(3)	T Dascombe	Prize Money: £8,927
	Wins: 2 GS,STD	Places: 0	
	4	312- MOMKIN (236) (BF)	3 9-0 M Guyon 104
Runs: 3	(5)	R Charlton	Prize Money: £8,912
	Wins: 1 GF	Places: 2	
	5	135- PRINCE EIJI (75)	3 9-0 NON RUNNER -
Runs: 3	(9)	R Varian	Prize Money: £15,797
	Wins: 1 GD	Places: 0	
	6	611-4 ●ROYAL MARINE (97) (D,BF)	3 9-0 C



Festival winners ‘Duc’ and ‘Tard’ set for Fairyhouse duel

Michael Verney

ARKLE hero Duc Des Genievres leads eight possible runners for Willie Mullins in Sunday’s Ryanair Gold Cup at Fairyhouse as he bids to follow in the footsteps of subsequent Gold Cup winner Al Boum Photo, which landed the spoils last year.

Duc Des Genievres was a scintillating winner on the opening day of last month’s Cheltenham Festival and the six-year-old heads his charge in the €100,000 contest over 2m4f as the three-day Fairyhouse’s Easter Festival kicks into gear.

The Closutton maestro accounts for nearly half of the 17 potential runners, with his octet also including runaway Naas winner Chacun Pour Soi, recent Grade Three scorer Burrows Saint, and Grade Two winner Voix Du Reve.

The classy Getabird is also a contender for Mullins with the exciting seven-year-old off the track since a final-fence blunder cost him a Grade One win at Limerick over Christmas.

Gordon Elliott’s Hardline took advantage to score on that occasion and the pair could cross swords again with the Meath trainer also represented by Champagne Classic, Cubomania and Mengli Khan.

Henry de Bromhead’s A Plus Tard – an effortless winner of the Close Brothers Novices’ Chase at Cheltenham – is also set to step out of handicap company having handed Rachael Blackmore her maiden Festival success on his last start.

It could also be a big weekend for Pat Doyle as the Tipperary handler intends to send the exciting Kaiser Black – second in the Grade One Flogas Novice Chase before landing a Grade Three last month – into battle while Aidan Howard’s Winter Escape is another intriguing contender.

The other Grade One on Sunday’s card is the Irish Stallion Farms EBF Mares Novice Hurdle, which has proved a bonanza for Mullins with four of the last six winners.

High-class mares Annie Power

(2013) and Laurina (2018) are among the roll of honour for Mullins and he has 10 possibilities, including Festival winner Eglantine Du Seuil and Concertista – separated by a short-head in the Mares’ Novices’ Hurdle.

Elliott will be hoping that Tintangle (third) and Black Tears (fourth) can show further improvement from their Cheltenham showing while Philip Dempsey will step Caravation – winner of her last two starts – up significantly in class.

The one they may all have to beat, however, is De Bromhead’s Honey-suckle. Forced to miss Cheltenham after suffering a small setback, the talented five-year-old is unbeaten in four career starts, including when landing the Grade Three Solerina Hurdle at Fairyhouse in January.

The Waterford handler hasn’t held back in his assessment that he thinks the daughter of Sulamani could reach the very top and she heads to the Meath track fresh on what should be a stellar Sunday of jumps action.

D-Day looming for Godsen on Too Darn Hot Guineas decision

Michael Verney

DOUBTS linger over the participation of Too Darn Hot in next month’s English 2,000 Guineas, with a decision set to be made in the coming days to decide if John Gosden’s exciting three-year-old is fit to tackle the first Classic of the season.

A setback ruled him out of last weekend’s Greenham and the son of Dubawi is now available at as big as 9/4 having trade around even money before a splint problem came to light last Wednesday.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber-owned colt has been confined to light exercise since then and would need to return to routine work in the next week or so if he is to have any chance of making the Newmarket showpiece on May 4. “We’ll see how we are over the next few days with Too Darn Hot. We’ll make a decision over the weekend or early next week as to his participation in the 2,000 Guineas,” Gosden said yesterday.

Aidan O’Brien’s Ten Sovereigns and Magna Grecia are his nearest market rivals for the 2,000 Guineas with both available at 6/1.

There was good news for Gosden at Newmarket yesterday as Kick On (2/1) dugged deep to land the Listed Feilden Stakes on the first day of the Craven meeting under Kerry jockey Oisin Murphy.

O’Brien’s Western Australia (6/4 favourite) was never a factor back in fifth on a day when Roger Varian’s Qabala (100/30 favourite) shot to the head of the English 1,000 Guineas market with success in the Group Three Nell Gwyn.

Qabala – ridden by Kildare teenager David Egan – was cut from as big as 66/1 to general 5/1 market leader – usurping Jonh Oxx’s Skitter Scatter (8/1) – after an impressive defeat of stablemate Mot Juste on only her second start.

Meanwhile, Godolphin hold the aces in today’s Craven Stakes (3.35), with Saeed bin Suroor’s Royal Marine and Charlie Appleby’s Zakouski jostling for favouritism.

BEVERLEY

(ROI -1560 600 760. NI-0901 2930 845)

€1.27/ £1.02 p/min. Calls from other networks and mobile cost more. 18+.

SP Phonovation Ltd. Helpline 0818 217 100

Going: GOOD TO FIRM (Good in places)

LIVE ON RACING TV

	CAPT KEEN	TRAV CORR
2.15	Birkenhead	Birkenhead
2.50	Gin Gembre	Gin Gembre
3.25	Fraser Island	Boutonniere
4.00	Attainment	Attainment
4.35	Watchable	Sandra's Secret
5.10	Bit Of A Quirke	Just Wait
5.40	Pontecarlo Boy	Kingdom Brunel
6.10	Elixsoft	Shazzab

2.15PROMO CODES AT ACEODDS.COM EBF NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (DIV I) (5) 5f 2yo only £4,033 11 dec.

1	(11)	THE GINGER BULLET	R Fahey 2 9-5	P Hanagan
2	(10)	COCK ROBIN	K A Ryan 2 9-4	Kevin Stott
3	(3)	BIRDIE BOWERS	M Dods 2 9-3	P Mulrennan
4	(8)	CHOCOHOLIC	B Smart 2 9-3	G Lee
5	(4)	TONQUIN VALLEY	B Ellison 2 9-3	K Schofield (7)
6	(9)	0 HELL OF A JOKER	(18) (P) W G M Turner 2 9-2	R White (5)
7	(2)	62 BIRKENHEAD	(15) (BF) M Channon 2 9-1	C Shepherd
8	(7)	HOVINGHAM	N Tinkler 2 9-1	R Scott (3)
9	(6)	4 ●LEAVE EM ALONE	(9) P D Evans 2 8-11	J Fahy
10	(5)	SASSY LASSY	D Loughnane 2 8-11	T Whelan
11	(1)	2 BETTYS HOPE	(14) B Millman 2 8-10	J Fanning

2018: No corresponding race.
BETTING: 11-4 Birkenhead, 100-30 Bettys Hope, 6 Leave Em Alone, 13-2 Others

SOUTHWELL

(ROI -1560 600 760. NI-0901 2930 845)

€1.27/ £1.02 p/min. Calls from other networks and mobile cost more. 18+.

SP Phonovation Ltd. Helpline 0818 217 100

Going: STANDARD (Fibresand)

LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING

	CAPT KEEN	TRAV CORR
6.00	Schindlers Ark	Thecornishbarron
6.30	Mama Africa	Casement
7.00	Samovar	Mininggold
7.30	Seasearch	Ripplet
8.00	Inspired Thought	Inspired Thought
8.30	Champagne Mondays	Gunnabedun

6.00BETWAY LIVE CASINO HANDICAP (6) 1m4f 4yo plus £3,105 14 dec.

1	(8)	46-526 MUNDERSFIELD	(46) (H) D Simcock 5 9-7	Dylan Hogan (5)
2	(5)	-44678 RED TOUCH	(14) (V) (C) M Appleby 7 9-7	A Rawlinson
3	(10)	75-477 ●PANATOS	(18) A Dunn 4 9-6	R Ryan
4	(13)	52649- INTERMODAL	(126) (P) J Brooke 5 9-5	H Shaw (5)
5	(4)	14255- MOTAHASSEN	(168) Declan Carroll 5 9-5	J Hart
6	(1)	080-80 LET'S BE HAPPY	(36) (D) Miss M Rowland 5 9-4	W Cox (3)
7	(12)	5079-9 PLACE DES VOSGES	(17) (TP) D Menuisier 4 9-4	P J McDonald
8	(11)	21-53 QUILA SAEDA	(14) M Appleby 5 9-4	T Ladd (5)
9	(7)	624236 CONTINGENCY FEE	(7) (HP) P McEntee 4 9-2	Grace McEntee (7)

2.50PROMO CODES AT ACEODDS.COM EBF NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (DIV II) (5) 5f 2yo only £4,033 10 dec.

1	(2)	4 GIN GEMBRE	(9) K Burke 2 9-5	B A Curtis
2	(5)	TROUBADOR	M Dods 2 9-3	P Mulrennan
3	(10)	COMEATCHOO	T Easterby 2 9-2	D Allan
4	(4)	NODDY SHUFFLE	M W Easterby 2 9-2	N Evans
5	(1)	PUERTO SOL	B Ellison 2 9-2	B Robinson (3)
6	(3)	RODNEE TEE	D O'Meara 2 9-2	C McGovern (3)
7	(9)	JAKODOBRO	B Smart 2 9-1	G Lee
8	(6)	6 ●LILI WEN FACH	(9) P D Evans 2 8-12	J Fahy
9	(8)	NOSTALGIC AIR	Mrs R Carr 2 8-11	J Sullivan
10	(7)	VODKA DAWN	P Makin 2 8-11	Sam James

2018: No corresponding race.
BETTING: 7-4 Gin Gembre, 5 Rodnee Tee, 6 Troubador, 8 Lili Wen Fach, 10 Puerto Sol, Vodka Dawn, 12 Nostalgic Air, 14 Comeatchoo, Jakodobro, 20 Others

3.25FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @BEVERLEY_RACES HANDICAP (4) 1m2f 3yo only £5,419 6 dec.

1	(1)	53231- GABRIAL THE ONE	(177) R Fahey 3 9-7	S Davis (5)
2	(3)	25553- FRASER ISLAND	(146) M Johnston 3 9-5	J Fanning
3	(4)	8-31 BOUTONNIERE	(35) (D) A Balding 3 9-5	Josh Bryan (3)
4	(6)	5426- WHISKEY AND WATER	(22) (BF) B Ellison 3 9-0	B Robinson (3)
5	(5)	64344- ●HOFFA	(194) M Dods 3 8-12	P Mulrennan
6	(2)	3837- SIMON'S SMILE	(145) K Burke 3 8-9	B A Curtis

2018: No corresponding race.
BETTING: 9-4 Boutonniere, 5-2 Gabriel The One, 4 Whiskey And Water, 11-2 Fraser Island, 9 Hoffa, 10 Simon's Smile

4.00AGGRAIN LTD REMEMBERING LAURA BARRY HANDICAP (4) 71/2f 3yo only £5,419 10 dec.

1	(5)	731-2 ATTAINMENT	(7) (BF) J Tate 3 9-7	D Allan
2	(8)	628-1 OLOROSO	(25) A Balding 3 9-6	Josh Bryan (3)
3	(2)	1006-2 PACINO	(21) R Fahey 3 9-5	T Hamilton
4	(7)	2215- AXE AXELROD	(217) M Dods 3 9-5	P Mulrennan
5	(3)	4210-7 ●AZOR AHAI	(21) M Channon 3 9-5	C Shepherd

10	(14)	80/6-0 FOUR MILE BEACH	(14J) M Chapman 6 9-2	Rachel Richardson
11	(6)	002614 GOING NATIVE	(18) (CD) O Williams 4 9-1	Rhona Pindar (7)
12	(2)	8-68 ZAHRAANI	(74) J Jenkins 4 8-11	K O'Neill
13	(9)	-94282 SCHINDLERS ARK	(14) Jane Chapple-Hyam 5 8-9	C Bennett
14	(3)	455-22 THECORNISHBARRON	(14) B Ellison 7 8-9	C Hardie

2018: No corresponding race.
BETTING: 11-4 Thecornishbarron, 4 Quila Saeda, 6 Motahassen, Schindlers Ark, 10 Contingency Fee, Going Native, Mundersfield, 14 Others

6.30SUNRACING.CO.UK HANDICAP (5) 1m 4yo plus £3,752 11 dec.

1	(10)	8268-1 CASEMENT	(8) (D) M Appleby 5 9-9 (5x)	A Rawlinson
2	(4)	9317-4 MUJASSAM	(13) (B) (C, D) D O'Meara 7 9-7	D Tudhope
3	(7)	-32727 MAMA AFRICA	(14) (CD) T D Barron 5 9-7	Jane Elliott (3)
4	(11)	-83642 GLORY AWAITS	(16) (B) (D) D Simcock 9 9-7	Dylan Hogan (5)
5	(2)	11-244 TAGUR	(21) (P) (CD) K A Ryan 5 9-4	T Greatrex (5)
6	(3)	-54232 MAJESTIC MOON	(14) (P) (CD) Miss J Feilden 9 9-2	Shelley Birkett
7	(1)	2-3672 MR CARBONATOR	(8) (CD) P Kirby 4 8-12	J Gormley (3)
8	(8)	-87761 ●MUQARRED	(14) (P) (CD) R G Fell 7 8-10	G Lee
9	(9)	323447 BOND ANGEL	(9) (CD) P D Evans 4 8-10	T Ladd (5)
10	(5)	0-0404 LAQAB	(7) D Shaw 6 8-10	P Mathers
11	(6)	-14313 THUNDER BUDDY	(18) (P) (C, BF) K Burke 4 8-9	Rhona Pindar (7)

2018: No corresponding race.
BETTING: 11-4 Casement, 5 Muqarred, 13-2 Thunder Buddy, 8 Mr Carbonator, 9 Majestic Moon, 10 Glory Awaits, Mama Africa, 12 Mujassam, Tagur, 16 Others

7.00BETWAY HANDICAP (4) 5f 4yo plus £5,531 8 dec.

1	(6)	77-418 ●MIDNIGHT MALIBU	(73) (CD) T Easterby 6 9-7	Rachel Richardson
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6	(4)	254-1 CITY TOUR	(15) M Johnston 3 9-4	J Fanning
7	(6)	2303-2 LIGHTNING ATTACK	(15) (P) R Fahey 3 9-4	P Hanagan
8	(9)	12247- STRONSAY	(180) B Smart 3 9-2	G Lee
9	(10)	8061-6 JACKAMUNDO	(15) Declan Carroll 3 9-0	Kevin Stott
10	(1)	15475- PEARL OF QATAR	(208) (C) B Ellison 3 8-10	B Robinson (3)

2018: No corresponding race.
BETTING: 9-4 Attainment, 4 Oloroso, 6 City Tour, 13-2 Lightning Attack, 10 Axe Axelrod, Jackamundo, Pacino, 16 Azor Ahai, Stronsay, 20 Others

4.35HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY MY SPECIAL MUM KATHIE HANDICAP (3) 5f 4yo plus £7,470 8 dec.

1	(2)	1112-4 SANDRA'S SECRET	(2) (CD) L Eyre 6 9-10	Cieren Fallon (7)
2	(5)	43243- WENTWORTH FALLS	(214) (D) G Harker 7 9-7	D Allan
3	(8)	32430- ●LINE OF REASON	(172) (CD) P Midgley 9 9-7	J Fanning
4	(4)	023-76 TERUNTUM STAR	(89) (D) K A Ryan 7 9-6	Kevin Stott
5	(6)	6-2431 WATCHABLE	(47) (P) (D) D O'Meara 9 9-4	D Nolan
6	(3)	91418- BILLY DYLAN	(207) (D) D O'Meara 4 9-1	C McGovern (3)
7	(7)	53606- RAPID APPLAUSE	(172) (CD) M W Easterby 7 9-1	N Evans
8	(1)	12672- AIRSHOW	(205) (H) M Appleby 4 8-10	L Morris

2018: No corresponding race.
BETTING: 4 Sandra's Secret, 9-2 Watchable, 5 Teruntum Star, 11-2 Airshow, Wentworth Falls, 8 Billy Dylan, Rapid Applause, 10 Line Of Reason

5.10WESTWOOD HANDICAP (5) 1m4f 4yo plus £4,285 12 dec.

1	(5)	412-4 JUST WAIT	(14) (D) M Johnston 4 9-7	J Fanning
2	(3)	/9460- ACCESSOR	(193) M Dods 4 9-5	P Mulrennan
3	(11)	6244U- SEARCHING	(231) (D) Mrs K Tutty 7 9-2	NON RUNNER
4	(9)	1450-3 BIT OF A QUIRKE	(8) (C) M Walford 6 9-1	A Mullen
5	(1)	39-641 ARCHIVE	(8) (D) B Ellison 9 9-1	B Robinson (3)
6	(2)	330-07 BE PERFECT	(15) (P) (CD) Mrs R Carr 10 9-1	J Sullivan
7	(12)	33114- FLOWER POWER	(169) (P) (CD) Tony Coyle 8 9-1	D C Costello
8	(4)	22568- ZIHAAM	(193) (CD) R G Fell 5 8-13	B Sanderson (5)
9	(8)	8-7527 ●GENDARME	(25) A Dunn 4 8-12	L Morris
10	(6)	4-345 ICONIC GIRL	(22) A Balding 4 8-12	F Norton
11	(10)	74104- AIRPLANE	(168) (D) T Easterby 4 8-11	D Fentiman
12	(7)	43426- SWANSWAY	(176) (D) M W Easterby 6 8-10	N Evans

2	(4)	34993- JABBAROCKIE	(193) (CD) E Alston 6 9-0	J Hart
3	(1)	13468- ONLY SPOOFING	(146) (D) Jedd O'Keeffe 5 9-0	S Davis (5)
4	(7)	71212- WARRIOR'S VALLEY	(13) (TP) (CD, BF) D Griffiths 4 8-12	P Dennis
5	(3)	-57598 CLASSIC PURSUIT	(16) (B) (CD) S Keniry 8 8-11	L Keniry
6	(2)	54853- SHOW PALACE	(161) (D) J Candlish 6 8-11	C Beasley
7	(8)	-13631 MININGGOLD	(13) (P) (CD) M Dods 6 8-9	Paula Muir (5)
8	(5)	447424 SAMOVAR	(34) (B) (CD) S Dixon 4 8-7	K O'Neill

2018: No corresponding race.
BETTING: 7-2 Mininggold, 9-2 Warrior's Valley, 5 Jabbarockie, Midnight Malibu, 6 Show Palace, 7 Only Spooing, 8 Samovar, 20 Others

7.30BETWAY CASINO HANDICAP (6) 1m6f 4yo plus £3,105 14 dec.

1	(2)	94-509 ●LUV U WHATEVER	(8) (T) (C) Mrs M Fife 9 9-8	H Shaw (5)
2	(11)	4-7666 HIGH COMMAND	(18) (V) (C) M Appleby 6 9-6	T Ladd (5)
3	(6)	-63104 SEASEARCH	(49) (P) (CD) A Balding 4 9-5	Josh Bryan (3)
4	(3)	173235 HARBOUR QUAY	(25) R Brisland 5 9-5	Seamus Cronin (5)
5	(9)	456 RIPPLET	(25) H Morrison 4 9-4	C Bennett
6	(8)	-87779 FERN OWL	(18) (V) (C) J Butler 7 9-4	L Keniry
7	(4)	00-236 MAGIC SEA	(19) S Dawson (IRE) 4 9-0	Dylan Hogan (5)
8	(1)	57068- DEW POND	(28J) (B) (D) T Easterby 7 8-13	Rachel Richardson
9	(5)	5-5109 SWEETEST SMILE	(21) E De Giles 4 8-5	Jane Elliott (3)
10	(12)	4408-5 BERTIE MOON	(104) (P) (C, D) T Forbes 9 8-5	Rhaini Ingram (5)
11	(14)	625-55 GREENVIEW PARADISE	(21) J Scott 5 8-3	K O'Neill
12	(7)	0/080- MELANNA	(316) S Barclay 8 8-3	C Hardie
13	(10)	090/0- LOOSE CHIPPINGS	(242) (H) I Furtado 5 8-3	G Malune (3)
14	(13)	60/6-6 UNONOTHINJONSNOW	(73) (E/S) F Bishop 5 8-3	Faye McManoman (5)

2018: No corresponding race.
BETTING: 9-2 Harbour Quay, Ripplet, Seasearch, 11-2 Magic Sea, 10 Dew Pond, Fern Owl, High Command, 12 Greenview Paradise, Luv U Whatever, 16 Others

2018: No corresponding race.
BETTING: 15-8 Archive, 7-2 Just Wait, 5 Bit Of A Quirke, 8 Iconic Girl, 9 Flower Power, 11 Swansway, 16 Airplane, Gendarme, 20 Others

5.40RACING TV NOVICE STAKES (5) 1m1/2f 4yo plus £4,140 9 dec.

1	(5)	23 BLINDINGLY	(47) B Haslam 4 9-5	A Mullen
2	(2)	HEAVENLY SECRET	(46J) (T) Tony Coyle 4 9-5	D C Costello
3	(7)	322- KINGDOM BRUNEL	(175) (W) D O'Meara 4 9-5	D Nolan
4	(4)	334-44 ●MOUNT ARARAT	(63) (P) K Burke 4 9-5	B A Curtis
5	(6)	/800-9 PONTECARLO BOY	(6) R Whitaker 5 9-5	J Fanning
6	(8)	37- SPIORAD	(196) D O'Meara 4 9-5	S A Gray
7	(1)	670-70 DUTCH MELODY	(8) L Egerton 5 9-0	V Santos (7)
8	(3)	EMERALD FOX	R Brisland 4 9-0	L Morris
9	(9)	5520- KATINKA	(212) A Watson 4 9-0	Hollie Doyle

2018: No corresponding race.
BETTING: 9-4 Kingdom Brunel, 5-2 Mount Ararat, 11-4 Katinka, 6 Spiorad, 15-2 Blindingly, 20 Others

6.10RACING AGAIN NEXT THURSDAY FILLIES' HANDICAP (5) 1m1/2f 4yo plus £4,285 12 dec.

1	(4)	13137- IDEAL CANDY	(205) (H) (C, D) Mrs K Tutty 4 9-9	S A Gray
2	(12)	728-13 GAINSAY	(9) (D) J Portman 4 9-7	Nicola Currie
3	(2)	40-407 ALEXANDRAKOLLONTAI	(19) (B) (D) A Whillans 9 9-7	C Murtagh (5)

4	(7)	432122 ELIXSOFT	(12) (P) (D) R G Fell 4 9-6	B A Curtis
5	(10)	582-54 BUBBLY	(95) D M Loughnane 4 9-1	L Morris
6	(1)	90003- ●SHAZZAB	(191) (D) R Fahey 4 9-0	P Hanagan
7	(3)	35066- KYLIE RULES	(205) Mrs R Carr 4 8-12	J Sullivan
8	(9)	84908- MAKE ON MADAM	(205) (CD) L Eyre 7 8-12	J Fanning
9	(8)	8128-6 ACADIAN ANGEL	(9) S Hollinshead 5 8-12	R Ffrench
10	(5)	676/80 DREAM ON DREAMER	(16) (TP) L Egerton 5 8-2	V Santos (7)
11	(11)	008- ROUE DE CHARRETTE	(151) (P) G Harker 4 8-2	N Evans
12	(6)	02590- DOMINANNIE	(165) R Barr 6 8-2	A Mullen

2018:


GOLF

Rising star Maguire gets chance to shine at PGA

Brian Keogh

RISING star Leona Maguire has accepted a special exemption to compete in the 2019 KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

Ranked No 1 on the Symetra Tour rankings following her maiden professional win in the Windsor Golf Classic earlier this month, the Slieve Russell star will tee it up at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Minnesota on June 18.

"It's going to be special week competing in this Major championship against an elite field on a golf course with so much history," said Maguire, who spent more weeks (135) as the world's top-ranked amateur than any player in the history of women's golf.

Currently ranked 232nd in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings, she has risen over 150 spots since entering 2019 ranked 383rd.

Climb

She will have further opportunities to climb the list and move into contention for a Solheim Cup call up when she returns to action with back-to-back appearances on the Ladies European Tour.

The Co Cavan star tees it up in the Lalla Meryem Cup at Royal Golf Dar Es Salam in Morocco next week followed by the world's first professional day-night golf tournament – the Omega Dubai Moonlight Classic on the Faldo Course at Emirates Golf Club – from May 1-3.

Meanwhile, Scotland's Russell Knox has confirmed he will defend the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open at Lahinch from July 4-7.

Knox (33) won dramatic fashion at Ballyliffin last year, holing a 45-foot birdie putt to force a play-off before sinking an almost identical one on the first extra hole to clinch a maiden Rolex Series title.

RÚAIDHRÍ O'CONNOR



WHEN Leinster's Ireland internationals returned to UCD after the Six Nations, Leo Cullen and Stuart Lancaster called them in for a meeting to assess the damage and plot a route forward.

In Joe Schmidt's words, the defeat to England left a number of leading lights "a bit broken" and the loss to Wales in Cardiff can't have helped their confidence either.

As bulk suppliers to the national team, Leinster were always going to suffer a knock-on effect.

Two weeks after the humbling Principality Stadium loss, the European champions returned to Champions Cup action against Ulster and barely got out alive.

Most of their front-liners have been kept on ice since, while their captain and talisman Johnny Sexton has not been seen in action ahead of Sunday's semi-final against Toulouse.

Compared to this point of last season, when Leinster's Grand Slam contingent blew Scarlets away at the Aviva Stadium, there are more doubts about their ability to go all the way.

Sympathy

Other provinces won't have sympathy, but the departures of Joey Carbery, Isa Nacewa and Jordi Murphy have weakened their squad and while they have secured PRO14 play-off qualification with rounds to spare and qualified from the Champions Cup pool stages with relative ease, they don't look as fluent as they did a year ago.

Still, Sexton is back; as are Robbie Henshaw and Devin Toner and Tadhg Furlong is fit despite going off with a knee injury on Saturday.

And Lancaster believes that the leading men can rise to the occasion.

"I think people's memories are reasonably short because in the Wasps game we played some outstanding rugby, I thought," he said.

"The first game was probably our best performance of the season.

"Then, we went to Toulouse and the disappointing thing about that performance was we gave them such an early lead, got back to 27-21, and ultimately lost 28-27 on the intercept.

"The two Bath games – the one at Bath was tough on the back of the November internationals but we played well at the Aviva to beat them by 40-odd points.

"We beat Toulouse at home and then put 40 points on Wasps away from home.

Lancaster: We're confident in our ability to turn it on for a big game



"The Ulster game is the most recent game on people's minds and Ulster's results recently, particularly last weekend, gives you an idea of how good we felt Ulster were going into it and how well Ulster played on that particular game.

"So, yeah, it's a completely different scenario from last year. We're the champions, we're the hunted rather than the hunters and that makes a difference.

"But we're confident in our ability to turn it on for a big game. We'll need to this week."

All eyes will be on Sexton who was last seen waging a war against himself as his form deserted him.

In many ways the World Player of the Year is emblematic of the struggling Ireland contingent whose confidence took a hit in the early spring.

"We had a good talk about the Six Nations with all the Ireland players when they came back into camp," he

said. "It is important to take the learning from them and update them on what we're doing at Leinster. We did that pretty successfully.

"Johnny's been in and around the camp the whole time. It's not like he's not been here.

"He has had his chance to get ahead in his preparation for Toulouse, alongside Garry (Ringrose), James Ryan, Jack Conan, the lads that didn't play at the weekend.

"He's very much in leadership mode. I'm sure he'll train well this afternoon. He certainly trained well last week. He looked fine.

"It was different (last year), obviously. You're going into the quarter-final against Saracens last year and boys have come off five games unbeaten with Ireland, they've won a Grand Slam.

"This time, on the back of the Wales game, it was different, no doubt.

"We still found a way to win and

towards the end of the game we began to exert more control and dominance.

"It was a real battle that game, conceding the early try obviously put us under pressure.

"So, it has been different this year but there's more than enough belief in the players and the coaching group that we can deliver the performance.

"But we're by no means complacent." That's because they know how good Sunday's opponents are having already faced them twice at the pool stage and watched them overcome Racing 92 in the quarter-final despite Zach Holmes' red card.

"The game we lost over in Toulouse was a disappointing one for us," Lancaster said.

"They can score tries in so many different ways.

"They can overpower you. They can beat you on the counter-attack.

"Their ability to keep the ball alive and generate successions of tries on

FACTFILE

3:32:34, 2 F Jakobsen (Nld) Deceuninck-QuickStep, 3 C Ewan (Aus) Lotto Soudal at same time.

GAELIC GAMES
FIXTURES
SATURDAY
ULSTER MFC

Clones: Monaghan v Down, 6.0, P Clarke (Cavan).

LIDL LADIES NFL
Division 1 Semi-Final

Glennon Brothers Pearse Park: Galway v Donegal, 2.15, B Rice (Down).

Division 3 Semi-Finals

Glennon Brothers Pearse Park: Sligo Roscommon, 12:30, D McEnery (Westmeath);

Kinnegad: Meath v Longford, 2.45, J Devlin (Tyrone).

Division 4 Semi-Finals

Clones: Antrim v Louth, 12.30, TBC;

Kinnegad: Fermanagh v Limerick, 1.0, TBC.

LITTLEWOODS IRELAND CAMOGIE LEAGUES
Division 2 Final – St Rynagh's, Banagher:

Kilkenny v Tipperary, 3.0, P McDonald (Cavan).

Division 3 Final – St Rynagh's, Banagher:

Kildare v Limerick, 1.0, B Nea (Westmeath).

SUNDAY
LIDL LADIES NFL
Division 1 Semi-Final – Nowlan Park:

Cork v Dublin, 2.0, N McCormack (Laois).

Division 2 Semi-Finals*

Armagh v Kerry; Cavan v Waterford. *Details TBC.

GREYHOUND RACING
TODAY'S CARDS
KILKENNY (8.12am)

525 – Trans Highway, Ambitious Fred, Heyisntthatright, Rathmoyle Fudge, Feed Me Mustard, Kells Diva. **525** – Triangle Dasher, Trapper Steven, Henrys Best, Woolies Cheyenne, Kilcassh Spark, Condor Merlin. **525** – Fast Or Slow, Rappers Rock, Ambitious Jet, Pops Folly, Feed Me Kebabs, Listrolin Pinny. **525** – Fagans Frenchie, Tuxedo Affair, Bogger Eire, Pops Magic, Ambitious Frosty, Ka Kas Flyer. **525** – Ballinalick Rua, Pops Mountain, Bull Run Flair, Woolie Two Toes, Gainstown Sianna, Condor Sammy. **525** – Fond Friend, Tuxedo Rougen, Gooches Choice, Fortunate Jamie, Condor Ollie, Kellsboro Sasha. **525** – Phillis Choice, Lady Hetty, Ascot Martha, Organique, Bogger Pod, Trumera Bandit. **525** – So Its Cain, Gurtnacrehy Cuba, Killyclug Finn, Tomahurra Leah, Mixed Gold Bars, Ambitious Glyder. **525** – Gurtnacrehy Hawk, Tomahurra Daisy, Rocky Legend, Trumera Wood, Moyneville Annie, Ambitious Sparky. **525** – Cashmere Kid, Arcutus Legacy, Ratches Kiew, Rocknroll Mayo, Lemon Ger, Trumera Quarry. **525** – Ascot Kim, Blacksmith Cardie, Hey Salah, Kilara Harriet, Carneys Blue, Esprit Bleu.

YOUGHAL (6.44)

525 – Trumers Wallace, Slaneyside Marly, Blue Daddy Two, Corrig Iris, Corrin Padjoe, Roseville Hunter. **525** – Hollyhill Lucy, Glenfinn Floss, Jumbos Bee, Druids Dont Know, Let Fly Dazzler, Joeys Gang. **525** – Mylane Denise, Springside Vic, Murleys Pride, Dansa Kate, Wagga Sport, Ballydorgan Mo. **525** – Dunbar Ace, Seaview Misty, Tooswitfoocatch, Kerryroad Niamh,

Nil Is Agam, Hauling Grass. **525** – Boca Sky, Curryhills Toey, Shebeen Jet Ski, Skyhigh Tina, Mouna Graphene, Whitty Slippy. **325** – Beenalought Lad, Breezing Jet, Mescal Pearl, Blitzkrieg, Bohermore Chance, Pushouttheboat. **525** – Slaneyside Twink, Choice Exile, Watch Out Matty, Gowlane Abu, Tuckeys Charm, Bull Marker. **525** – Intoexile, Trumers Phoebe, Dustys Chequers, Whitty Bullet, Slaneyside Louie, Willow Gang. **525** – Loaded Spring, Whitty Skippy, Witches Sue, Sonas House, Hollyhill Betty, Ciaras Deise. **525** – Witches Suzy, Slaneyside Tipp, Annies Ace, Bogcross Skinny, Knockglass Oscar, Hollyhill Alfie. **525** – Dungarvan Aglow, Slaneyside Sid, Shlowdown David, Seaview McGregor, Manontherun, Witches Bally. **525** – Glentrasna Lady, Corrin Susan, Flair Henry, Canvas Majestic, Shebeen Jet On, Goldie. **Floating res:** Corrin Maisy, Corrin Shane, Slaheny Honey, Mouna Lapis, Whitty Zach, Text A Friend.

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS
SHELBOURNE PARK

525 – Bag Lady Shauna (Zero Ten-Toras Vic) (1) 1/1, Granarda Milly (6) 3/1, Maxhunter (5) 3/1, Beechview Pearl (2) 3/1, Kit Valentine (4) 3/1, Rappers Lucy (3) 3/1, 0.75L 29.89 (P Daly). **TE**4.70 2.70 4.40 **FE**6.60 **TE**53.80.

525 – Inas Tina (Tyrur Big Mike-Garrymore Xpress) (1) 4/6, Rathvilly Paudie (3) 3/1, Orange Bernie (5) 4/1, Gainstown Path (6) 8/1, Kilmessan Mast (2) 3/1, Bit View Gina (4) 8/1. 2.5L 29.01. **TE**2.00 2.10 1.70 **FE**8.40 **TE**31.00.

525 – Booleighs Lad (Over Limit-Iceroad Lake) (3) 4/5, Freddie For Sam (4) 5/4, Da Vinci Pixi (5) 3/1, Mantis (1) 5/2, Gainstown Power (6) 3/1. 11L 29.25. **TE**3.60 1.90

1.90 **FE**5.50 **TE**57.30.

350 – Lough Tiger (Lenson Bolt-Langan Kindling) (5) 3/1, Razzamatazza (1) 5/4, Fantasy Bert (3) 7/4, Rosey Ruptions (6) 4/1, Universal Red (4) 5/1, Lodgefield Kim (2) 3/1. 3L 18.82. **TE**7.10 2.20 2.10 **FE**57.10 **TE**43.30.

525 – Olwinn Return (Wonder Millie-Boomtoun Return) (2) 5/2, Cookies N Cream (1) 5/1, Five Ten (3) 2/1, Boynepark Laz (5) 4/7, Glenbrien Flight (6) 10/1, Beechview Snap (4) 10/1. 5L 28.85. **TE**8.00 2.70 3.60 **FE**45.60 **TE**187.50.

525 – Paradise Mata (Skywalker Puma-Alexandra) (1) 6/4, Forest Luke (2) 2/1, Tymon Wildcat (5) 4/1, Glenbrien Rescue (6) 2/1, Tudors Luck (4) 6/1. 6L 28.66 (L O'Rourke). **TE**2.60 1.10 1.10 **FE**4.90 **TE**16.80.

525 – Skeough Girl (Ballymac Eske-Lemon Lucy) (6) 8/1, Tinnock Simba (5) 4/7, Olwinn Millie (2) 2/1, Starshinesparta (1) 5/1, Da Vinci Kane (4) 8/1, Abakebabra Soda (3) 8/1. 2.5L 28.71 (M Donnelly). **TE**1314.70 6.40 3.00 **FE**1.70 **TE**16.90.

525 – Burrow Socks (Kinloch Brae-Finnery Bret) (4) 3/1, Pearl Spectre (1) 3/1, Shays Gift (5) 2/1, Fatboyz Izzie (2) 5/2, Tandom (3) 3/1, Malbay Romeo (6) 4/1. 3.5L 29.12. **TE**4.80 3.90 4.70 **FE**19.80 **TE**92.30.

525 – Banker Material (Crash-Cougar Fox) (1) 2/1, Baytown Evie (4) 3/1, Chajam (2) 5/2, Puckane Vic (5) 5/1, Clana (3) 5/2, Messenger (6) 4/1. SH 29.01 (M Bolton). **TE**2.30 2.20 3.20 **FE**14.20 **TE**63.80.

TRALEE

Valarian Prince 7/1 29.86; Omega Bay 4/1 18.08; Ossy Wink 7/4f 29.30; Pony Anna 3/1 29.58; Lybes Destiny 5/1 29.28; Rathronan Blitz 2/1f 17.81; Lenas Poppy 3/1 28.94; Tokenfire Abbie 5/1 29.01; Youngfellathanks 7/2 29.04; Curryhills Oisín 5/1 29.27.

RUGBY
FIXTURES
SATURDAY
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP – Semi-Final

Saracens v Munster, Ricoh Arena, 3.0, BT Sport.

ALL-IRELAND LEAGUE (2.30)

Div 1A Semi-Finals: Clontarf v Lansdowne, Castle Avenue; Cork Constitution v Dublin Uni, Temple Hill. **Div 1B Play-Offs:** Old Wesley v Naas, Donnybrook Stadium; UCC v Malone, The Mardyke.

Div 2A Play-Offs: Buccaneers v Queen's University, Dubarry Park; Cashes v Navan, Spafield. **Div 2B Play-Offs:** Blackrock v Sligo, Stradbroke; Greystones v Rainey OB, Dr Hickey Park. **Div 2C Play-Offs:** Midleton v Bruff, Towns Park; Skerries v Malahide, Holmpatrick; Seapoint v Clonmel, Kilbogget Park.

Bateman Cup Final: City of Armagh v Garryowen, St Mary's, 12.30, RTE2.

SUNDAY
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP – Semi-Final

Leinster v Toulouse, Aviva Stadium, 3.15, Virgin Media 1/Channel 4/BT Sport.

SELECTION

IRELAND WOMEN'S SEVENS SQUAD (Kitakyushu 7s, Japan, Saturday–Sunday): C Boles, M Burns, A Doyle, L Galvin, K Heffernan, E Higgins, B Hogan, E Lane, A McGann, L Mulhall (capt), A-L Murphy Crowe, D Nic a Bhaired, H Tyrrell.

Saturday: Ireland v Fiji/England/USA. **Sunday:** Play-Offs and Finals.

TODAY'S SPORT
RACING

Dundalk 5.45, Newmarket 1.50, Cheltenham 2.05, Beverley 2.15, Southwell 6.0.

GAELIC GAMES

MUNSTER MFC – Clare v Tipperary, Cusack Park, 6.45, S Mulvihill (Kerry); Waterford v Limerick, Fraher Field, 7.0, S Lonergan (Tipperary).

GREYHOUND RACING

Kilkenny 8.12am, Youghal 6.44.

BASKETBALL
NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE PLAY-OFFS – Rd 1: Philadelphia 76ers 145 Brooklyn Nets 123 (Series tied 1-1).

WESTERN CONFERENCE PLAY-OFFS – Rd1: Golden State Warriors 131 LA Clippers 135 (Series tied 1-1).

CYCLING
UCI WORLD TOUR
PRESIDENTIAL TOUR OF TURKEY

Final Positions after Stage 1 (Istanbul-Tekirdag, 156.7km): 1 Sam Bennett (Irl) Bora-Hansgrohe



Van Graan: I specifically re-signed 'great man' Bleyendaal for weeks just like this

Rúaidhrí O'Connor

TYLER BLEYENDAAL'S body might have robbed him of the best of his Munster years, but his mind has remained willing.

During his long, frustrating absence from the first team with his latest neck problem the New Zealander has remained a central figure in the province's set-up.

He'd regularly be used as a waterboy-cum-sideline runner, getting messages from the coaching booth to the pitch with the desired clarity.

In match-preparation meetings his voice is regularly heard regardless of whether he's playing at the weekend or not.

Eyebrows were raised when Munster announced his new contract last month and there were some suggestions that the 28-year-old Kiwi out-half would be taking on additional coaching responsibilities from next season.

Yet, on Saturday, he will be a pivotal on-pitch figure as Johann van Graan's men look to end an 11-year wait for a European final.

In the quarter-final, he replaced Joey Carbery before half-time and put his body on the line regardless of the consequences.

When Rhys Marshall's crucial lineout sailed over Tadhg Beirne's hands it was Bleyendaal (right) who pounced.

A few minutes later, he nailed a sublime touchline conversion.

Now, in Carbery's absence, he is set to start against Saracens once again; two years after he had his most difficult day in red. Munster have faith.

"Tyler was one of the first people I met when I came here in two years ago," Van Graan recalled.

"His composure and his calmness impressed me straight away, he is a very consistent guy. Whether injured or not, he gives the same amount of input every week.

"He sits in on every meeting and he is just one of those guys in the team that is a real energy-giver.

"He doesn't say that much, but what he says has got some real value and he is a massive influence.

"There was a lot of questions asked as to why I re-signed him. It is specifically for weeks like this.

"He is a great man, a very good rugby player, he understands the game and I think we are very lucky to have him."

His latest absence ended when he came back for Munster 'A' against Leinster in October, but it took time for him to find form and show confidence in his healed body.

Although JJ Hanrahan deputised while Carbery was

flying high with the first team, Van Graan kept Bleyendaal involved and he captained the team on several occasions and built his way towards full fitness.

When the time came to put his neck on the line, he didn't think twice.

"I have never had a neck injury, but to go through what he has gone through, I don't think everyone understands how tough it really is and it takes time," Van Graan said.

"Everything takes time, but from a neck and a bigger injury that's very serious.

"He fought his way back, like I said, in his own quiet way, from running on the sidelines to start making contact, I remember when he started hitting hit shields with (defence coach) JP (Ferreira) and our strength and Conditioning team to where now he makes a lot of big contributions.

"In the Edinburgh game, if you look at the amount of tackles that he made in that five minutes that we

defende... it's brilliant to have him and great to have three fit fly-halves at this stage. I thought JJ played really well over the weekend."

Conor Murray recently said that the players regularly wind their out-half up about his capacity to one day coach the All Blacks, but there is serious respect for his rugby smarts.

"He's incredibly intelligent. He's one of these guys who could go straight into coaching if you asked him today," Rory Scannell said.

"He's very calm in the way he delivers his messages, even on the pitch when there's those tense moments.

"There might be a score in it in a big European match and he just sticks with the process, sticks to our game-plan.

"He helps calm the guys around him as well and when you see that in your main playmaker it helps keep you calm as well.

"His rugby knowledge is pretty good, having him alongside you is always a benefit and I try and be his ears and feed him the info.

"The last few games he's been incredible, it's great to see him back firing at his best since he's had a few injuries."

Two seasons ago, Bleyendaal rolled into the Saracens semi-final in the best form of his Munster career and things didn't go well.

Saturday offers an unexpected shot at redemption.



Stuart Lancaster has warned his team that Toulouse can inflict damage in many different ways SPORTSFILE

momentum... if you look at the rankings of who has made the most line-breaks in the Top 14? It's Toulouse.

"Who's made the most metres? It's Toulouse. Who has the most defenders beaten? It's Toulouse. They just have an unbelievable chemistry through the team in how they create momentum in attack.

"They have a real solidity in defence now as well which I thought really showed its worth against Racing in the quarter-final. It's a big week for us in terms of our defence, there's no doubt.

"But also, it's not generating opportunities for them to launch their counter-attack by being effective with the ball as well.

"What we did well in the RDS is we played good, attacking rugby but we retained possession well and built pressure on them. It took us until 60, 70 minutes to break them but we got there in the end."

Tekori in doubt to face Leinster

TOULOUSE could yet be without powerful lock Joe Tekori for Sunday's Heineken Champions Cup semi-final against Leinster.

Tournament organisers EPCR are seeking clarification from World Rugby and Ligue Nationale de Rugby (LNR) regarding the Samoan's availability after he was cited yesterday, but had his hearing scheduled for Wednesday, April 23 – three days after the Leinster match.

The citing arises as a result of his ferocious high tackle on Clermont hooker Yohan Beheregaray that saw him receive a yellow card and concede a penalty try in last weekend's Top 14 clash.

Revived Saracens up for Munster dogfight

David Kelly

TO become the top dog in Europe, sometimes a team need to cry havoc and let loose the dogs of war, to quote 'The Bard'.

Furry, four-legged friends found their way on to the University of Limerick training field this week; suggestions that the yawning gap since the side's last European title might require extra doggedness would rankle with some of Munster's fiercest beasts.

Then again, as Peter O'Mahony has regularly been the first to admit, Munster, without a European title since claiming their second in 2008, have too often been akin to barking dogs who never bite, repeatedly failing to finish as leaders of the pack.

Their renowned opponents this weekend, Saracens, are one of the sides who have supplanted Munster's once-eminent status this decade; indeed coach Mark McCall overtly points to the 2006 and 2008 champions as chief role models for



Saracens and the 'Wolfpack' will be aiming to be top dogs on Saturday

his quiet revolution.

Former Ulster coach McCall recognised Munster's tortuous path to the summit and the sacrifices required to do so; and so he threw his team's character to the wolves. Literally.

Famed English defence coach Paul Gustard instigated the now famous 'Wolfpack' defence which would propel the side to the top; before they beat Ulster in a 2013 quarter-final, he even introduced some wild dogs into his training sessions.

They would lose the subsequent semi-final, then lose a final, before finally reaching their own Holy Grail in 2016, precisely 10 years after Munster's breakthrough, adding a second in succession for good measure, and easily swatting aside the Irishmen en route.

Both teams are now hunters this year, however, as Saracens' attempted three-peat faltered last term while Munster, also still stuck on two titles, once more stuttered at the semi-final stage.

Something has to give this weekend and while Saracens remain the tournament favourites, Munster are ready to unleash their dogs of war in a quest to match the famed Englishmen's defence.

"Well, they've got the best defence in Europe so I don't think they're too worried about copying our template!" smiles Jamie George, the English international hooker, restricted by his club, it seems, from discussing Billy Vunipola's "responsibilities".

"I think Paul Gustard was very innovative in the way that he coached to bring wolves to the changing-rooms, it provided good craic but yeah, you can liken our defence to theirs certainly and bringing in stuff like that it's nice to keep things fresh.

"But we've had a really good week in terms of our meetings and preparations as well."

George feels Saracens' demise in Europe last season, when Leinster wiped their eye in a stunning quarter-final win – they still recovered to win their domestic title – was only a

temporary blip in their dominance.

"We were incredibly disappointed with the result but the important thing for us was that we were able to focus on the domestic competition, and we were able to go on and win that and I think that was a huge sign regarding us as a club.

"Sometimes when you lose games you learn a huge amount about yourselves and we realised that potentially last year that we weren't at our best at all, that we were actually quite a long way off that and that became apparent in that Leinster game when we were outplayed and out-classed.

"But that galvanised us and made us closer, and we're certainly a better squad on the back of it.

Domestic

"We were made aware of what it took to be the best in Europe and we potentially then took that into the domestic competition.

"We're certainly nearly back there and the thing I like about that is the similarities between 2016 and 2017 was we were winning while knowing in the back of our minds there was still more.

"We know that we will have to be at our best to beat Munster on Saturday. We are here to win titles and if we don't, we are disappointed.

"Considering their history, it would be incredible to move ahead of them in terms of titles won."

Munster, like a dog with a bone, won't concede that argument easily.



Gillane: I drive myself mad trying to perfect things

Michael Verney

IF Aaron Gillane's reaction to watching back Limerick's comprehensive league final defeat of Waterford is anything to go by, any side meeting the Treaty should tread carefully.

Gillane was in sensational form, bagging 1-9 (1-5 from play), but it's his eight wides that he'll remember most and he was left "cringing" at the missed chances before immediately setting off with hurl in hand to rectify it.

"I was actually cringing watching it. I had eight wides and I was like, 'Jeez, how did he get man of the match in this?'" Gillane (above) said at the launch of the 2019 John West National Féile.

"But it was good because after every match you always have stuff to work on."

"So I watched it and threw on a pair of shorts and then went straight up to the field and hit a few shots."

"I'd drive myself mad trying to perfect things but it's good to have things to work on."

Perfection

They say perfection is unattainable but Gillane's first-half goal that day was as close as you can get with his beautiful flicked effort bringing back memories of Jimmy Barry-Murphy's overhead strike in Cork's 1983 All-Ireland semi-final defeat of Galway.

The Patrickswell ace concedes there were some aspects of a "fluke" to his, although his words are better regarded as modesty rather than truth.

"Noel Connors was out in front of me, I was like, 'Jeez, he has this now and he's going to break it down in front of him'. I was actually going to run out to the side first and then Tom (Morrissey) was slow lifting his head," Gillane recalled.

"I don't know why he drilled the ball so hard either. It was all a fluke. He never hits the ball in like that, and Noel Connors is never going to miss the ball like that again either. It was just instinct and



I was lucky I got a little touch on it."

Gillane's rise to become one of the game's most lethal attackers is all the more remarkable given that he was let go from the squad early on in John Kiely's first year in charge before being recalled a few months later.

"John Kiely called me in for the winter and I was wondering myself might people be raising eyebrows, that 'he couldn't start with the U-21s last year'."

"I went in, gave it a shot. Look, it didn't work out but John said, 'go away and play Fitzgibbon'."

"I'd one of two options, feel sorry for myself, or go away and put in a few good performances with Mary I."

"Thankfully I did that and a few weeks after I won the Fitzgibbon Cup, John brought me back in."

The confidence which Kiely has shown in him has been reciprocated with his performances on the pitch and the 23-year-old is keen for this young Treaty side to cement their own place in history.

"Even the build-up to the final last year, all the talk was about '73 (their last All-Ireland-winning team before 2018), it never affected our panel anyway. Maybe it was great for people to talk about it but we took no notice of it."

"Like I keep saying, '73, fair play to them, the team that got to the All-Ireland final in 2007, fair play to them like, but they've nothing to do with us."

"I know it sounds so bad like but we don't care about them. We want to create our own history. They have nothing to do with us."

King returns to Laois hurling fold

LAOIS hurling boss Eddie Brennan has been handed a significant boost before next month's Joe McDonagh Cup commences with Ross King returning to the fold.

King opted out of the Laois squad last autumn after receiving a nasty facial injury in Rathdowney-Errill's county SHC final defeat to Camross last September.

Last year's captain sat out the entire league campaign but he has answered

Brennan's urgings to return and was back training with the full panel last Sunday in what is a huge addition to their attacking options for the summer.

The O'Moore men begin their Joe McDonagh Cup campaign away to neighbours Offaly on May 11/12.

Laois begin their campaign away to Offaly on May 11 in O'Connor Park, in a tie that could decide who makes the McDonagh final.



Lee Keegan says Mayo boss James Horan is 'more scary' now compared to his first term SAM BARNES/SPORTSFILE

'It doesn't matter what you've done before'

Keegan hails Horan's ability to keep Mayo's elder statesmen on their toes ahead of another tilt at banishing All-Ireland demons



WHEN the text dropped on Lee Keegan's phone informing him of a trial game in late October for anyone hoping to stake a claim on the Mayo squad, he knew things were going to be a little different this year.

Having played under James Horan with Westport last year, Keegan had a fair idea what to expect from his second coming as manager and a line was immediately drawn over the past.

Experienced faces who had gone to the well in recent All-Ireland SFC finals would have to battle for their place the same as any young rookie, with a "more scary" Horan taking no prisoners having replaced Stephen Rochford at the Mayo helm.

"He's definitely more scary!" Keegan says of Horan when asked how his two terms as boss differ.

"He's probably more of a coach now than he was then. He's more involved with the training side of things."

"He has more of an input with the session. I suppose I had him for club last year so that was scary as well."

"But the big thing with James is he's bringing the style with him where he doesn't care what you've done before as a player."

"And that's keeping a lot of us on our toes and keeping us fresh. If you have one bad game, you could be on the bench the next day. That's the biggest difference with James now."

"He knows himself he's still learning a lot in terms of the coaches and the players. So we're still working through the game plan but James probably brought that more challeng-

ing mindset to the players."

"It doesn't matter what you've done before. If you're not playing well, you're not getting picked. As a player sometimes, you nearly know if you're going to be playing. You might get into a comfort zone. That shows in how you perform sometimes in big games as well."

Funnily enough, the former Footballer of the Year wasn't around for the trials as he spent the October Bank Holiday in Munich for Kevin McLoughlin's stag and he lauds Horan for allowing players to enjoy themselves on and off the pitch.

There are no drinking bans in place, no contract signings, no overly strict rules to abide by and while Keegan admits he's still "the driver for all the weddings", players are not kept on tight leashes. Instead, they're trusted.

'It's crazy getting people to sign contracts. Treat us like adults we will act like adults'

"He treats us like adults. This whole myth around 'you're nearly a 30-year-old lad, you can't go drinking', you have to debunk that because I mean if you can't be treated like an adult then you're not going to act like one in training," the four-time All-Star says.

"James understands that you have to spend time with your partner and your friends and obviously work as well is another aspect of it, you have to tick that box as well. There is flexibility but when you're on you have to be ready and training hard."

"It's just crazy getting people to sign contracts. We're adults, if you treat us like adults we will act like adults and if you start putting bans on lads that's

where you start losing respect and you won't get the best from lads."

It's clear that Mayo have returned rejuvenated after last year's early summer exit and getting their hands on a national title when winning last month's Division 1 league final was an early feather in their cap.

New players like Matthew Ruane, Fionn McDonagh and Fergal Boland have emerged to complement elder statesmen like Colm Boyle, Keith Higgins and Keegan but their league glory was "short-lived".

Championship was always on the horizon with the rampaging wing-back setting his sights on visiting New York in the Connacht SFC on May 5 before trying to fry bigger fish.

The 29-year-old will wed fiancée Aoife Duffy later this year and Sam Maguire would be a welcome guest should they finally end their 68-year All-Ireland SFC famine in September.

To do so they will likely face Jim Gavin's five-in-a-row-chasing Dublin, for whom there has been much speculation that old sparring partner Diarmuid Connolly – as well as former full-back Rory O'Carroll – may make a sensational return to the fold.

"I hear he's playing centre-back!" Keegan says.

"And you see Rory O'Carroll back playing at the weekend and a lot of stories have been on them, so they are a big plus for Dublin if they do come back."

"It'll add to the stories anyway, what's going around Dublin. They are two players that would be serious contenders for any team, so to have them back playing is a huge plus."

"But I can't be worrying about those guys. They are for Dublin to worry about, we'll worry about our own players back home."



BREHENY BEAT



**MARTIN
BREHENY**

Gallagher and Mac Niallais exits should set alarm bells ringing

Key Longford and Donegal men miss championship for different reasons

DARREN GALLAGHER won't be playing for Longford in this year's football championship; neither will Odhrán Mac Niallais be aboard the Donegal team.

Gallagher, described in last week's 'Longford Leader' by sports editor Padraic O'Brien as "probably the main reason why Longford survived in Division 3", is heading away for the summer while Mac Niallais (below) has opted out because he has "no real interest in football at the moment".

And so, two counties with vastly contrasting championship prospects will be missing major midfield talent, albeit for different reasons.

Gallagher wants to spend the summer in the US while Mac Niallais's heart just isn't in the game at present.

"Growing up, football was everything to me and that's fading a bit now. It's hard to explain but I just don't have the enjoyment and desire to play," said Mac Niallais.

"Football in the last few years is not as enjoyable as it used to be with the way that it's played and that's part of it too.

"The commitment levels with Donegal and all county teams are through the roof and I just don't have the hunger and desire to put it in."

It's a stark explanation of why he won't be involved, even if critics will, no doubt, sneer at the idea of a top player from a leading county not having the motivation to drive on.

Mac Niallais is being honest and if that's the way he feels, then he's right to sign off rather than staying on with a half-hearted approach.

Still, when a player of his status

mentions the way the game is being played as part of the explanation for his departure, it needs to be examined.

Why is that the case? How many other players feel the same? Is there a discontented wall of silence out there with players deeply disillusioned over the way football has evolved, but reluctant to articulate it, lest they be accused of whinging or, worse still, of mental weakness?

Mac Niallais talks of commitment levels going "through the roof", a view shared by most other players.

It extends way beyond training schedules impacting their private time, where they are required to apply ridiculously strict regimes that even professionals don't live by.

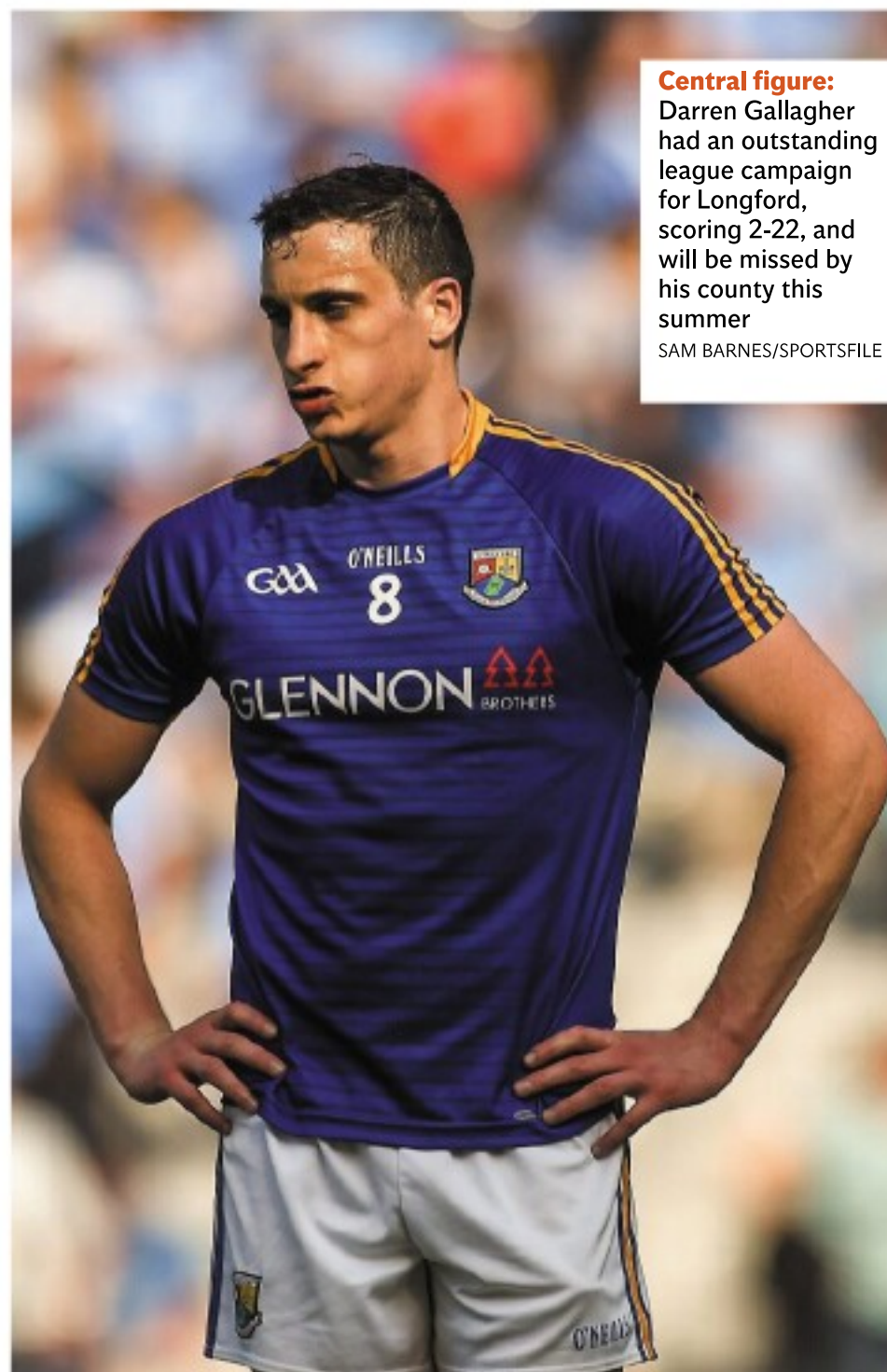
Imagine if a county player was seen in his local pub having a few drinks last weekend. It would be all over social media inside the hour, accompanied by a vicious level of hostility.

How many GAA managers tell their players to go out and enjoy themselves after winning a game, even if their next outing isn't for a few weeks?

Contrast that with rugby, specifically Connacht after securing a place in the knock-out stages of the PRO14 last Saturday, a win that also booked a spot in next season's Champions Cup.

Coach Andy Friend invited them afterwards to "go out and enjoy themselves tonight" and told 'Morning Ireland' on Monday that 'Sunday was a long, slow day but well worth it'. We can take it that a good time was had by all.

One might have thought that a monastic lifestyle would be more in keeping with a professional game, but no, it's the GAA's amateurs who



Central figure: Darren Gallagher had an outstanding league campaign for Longford, scoring 2-22, and will be missed by his county this summer
SAM BARNES/SPORTSFILE

are expected to avoid any socialising until the season is over.

How did that oppressive culture take hold? What impact is it having on players? How long before there's a rebellion?

And how long before players from lower-ranked counties declare war on a system that's beyond unfair?

Gallagher obviously has his own reasons for heading to the US rather than staying around for the championship, but one wonders if the reality of Longford's position played a part.

The midfielder had an outstanding league campaign, scoring 2-22 (2-6 from play) in seven games, where he averaged 8.2 in the *Irish Independent* player ratings.

Longford finished fifth in Division

If a county player was seen in his local pub having a few drinks it'd be all over social media

3. They now move on to the championship where they will, in all probability, play Kildare, who are fancied to beat Wicklow in the first round.

Longford have only beaten Kildare twice in championship history but if they were to end that bad run, Dublin (in all likelihood) would await them in the semi-final. Longford lost to Dublin by 19 points last year.

"How do you explain to some alien that comes down to earth that there are 12 counties and 11 of them play

football in one province (Leinster) and five or six play in others and nine in another? How do you explain that and say it's an equal competition? It sure as hell isn't," said Denis Conner-ton, the then Longford manager after the trimming by Dublin.

Structurally, the championship is unfair, outdated and dispiriting for many players, yet there's no sign whatsoever of dismantling the lop-sided provincial system.

A secondary competition for lower-ranked counties after they are eliminated from the provincial championships is under consideration, but will only get support if it's packaged properly, rather than put forward as a sop, which was the case with the All-Ireland 'B' championship and Tommy Murphy Cup in the past.

At the very least, that requires playing the final on All-Ireland day, replacing the minor decider as the curtain-raiser.

It's disappointing for Longford to be without Gallagher for the championship but they respect his position.

He's a high-profile absentee but what about the many players in several counties who declined to commit in the first place because they felt the slim possibility of reward didn't justify the commitment required?

There will always be a variation in standards between counties but there's no excuse for having a championship system that is so blatantly unfair.

Suspension shows up rulebook flaws

SO, Seamus Harnedy and Conor Delaney are free to play in the first round of the provincial hurling championships next month, having won their case that they had served one-match bans in the Cork-Kilkenny play-off last month.

The initial stages of the disciplinary system held that the game didn't count for suspension purposes and that they would instead have to miss a championship game.

The Central Appeals Committee disagreed with that interpretation and cleared the pair for immediate action.

Logic suggested that the play-off should count for suspension purposes, yet the players and their county boards had to go through a time-consuming process to prove it.

Sometimes the rulebook can be a complete ass, this being a particularly good example.

Even then, one would have thought that even if there was some degree of uncertainty about interpretation, the benefit of the doubt would go to the players.

It didn't initially but at least it ended well.

How much lower can Cork sink?

WHO would have foreseen it, the day when the odds against Cork footballers winning the All-Ireland title stretched out to 250/1? That's exactly where they find themselves after dropping into Division 3.

It leaves them as 12th favourites, a fair reflection of their current status.

However generous the price may look, there still won't be many takers, no more than there will be for their 9/1 to win Munster.

The decline on Leaside over the past four years has been as sharp as it's been inexplicable and since there was no sign of the bottom being reached in the recent Allianz League, there are genuine fears that the worst is not over.

Indeed, it would be no big surprise if Cork failed to reach the Munster final.

Meanwhile, Down, who ran Cork to a point in the 2010 All-Ireland final, are 500/1 for the All-Ireland and 5/1 sixth favourites to win Ulster for the first time in 25 years.

All of which goes to show that not even All-Ireland finalists are immune from a slump if they take their eyes off the ball.





Battling Cardiff leave Hughton's Brighton on rocks

BRIGHTON	0
CARDIFF CITY	2

Jim White

CARDIFF are still alive. Victory last night against the only team they can realistically catch in the scramble to remain in the Premier League means reports of Welsh demise were more than a little premature.

There were those who wondered how Neil Warnock had managed to get his side promoted last season.

If he maintains this sort of momentum, heads need not be scratched as to exactly how he kept them up.

Topped off by two smart goals, this was a performance of bravery, intensity and intelligence – three words that nobody would use to describe a Brighton side apparently sleep-walking into the Championship.

Nathaniel Mendez-Laing fired Cardiff ahead in the 22nd minute, adding the finishing touch to a swift counter-attack.

Brighton emerged for the second half first. Whatever Chris Hughton had said in the dressing room, the requirement was straightforward: go for it. But still the ball was too frequently served up to their opponents. Still there was no hint of control or plan.

No more than five minutes had elapsed in the second half when a needless free-kick was surrendered. Victor Camarasa floated the ball into the box and Sean Morrison stole in ahead of Lewis Dunk to head home Cardiff's second.

Brighton still have Wolves, Spurs, Newcastle, Arsenal and Manchester City to play. But after this, it is hard to see them gaining so much as a point.

Cardiff face Liverpool, Fulham, Crystal Palace and Manchester United. Now just two points behind, one win out of that lot might be enough. The great escape is still on.

Jason Burt

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR enter uncharted territory at the Etihad Stadium tonight.

They have been in the second leg of a Champions League quarter-final once before, but have never had a realistic chance of going further.

In 2011, in their first campaign in the competition, Harry Redknapp's side were dismissed 4-0 at Real Madrid, with Peter Crouch sent off early, rendering the return at White Hart Lane "a mountain to climb", according to the manager.

It inevitably proved too much with Madrid also winning that game 1-0 – the slender, but precious, scoreline that Spurs now take to Manchester City following last week's victory at their new stadium. That venue, and the atmosphere it created, felt like it made a difference.

After three restorative wins at home this is Spurs' first game on the road since finally moving with a record in their past six away matches, against English opposition in all competitions, that reads LLLLLL.

For all the talk of Spurs and their supporters having grown weary of Wembley, the fact is their home record, largely, stood up while their away form collapsed. Since losing to Manchester United in mid-January they gained seven wins and the draw against Arsenal at Wembley.

Shocking

The shocking away record, though, is punctuated by the 1-0 win at Borussia Dortmund in the previous round of the Champions League. It is that from which Spurs can take belief.

The goal, of course, was scored by Harry Kane. The absence, through the ankle injury sustained against City by Spurs' talisman and main scorer, adds another imponderable to this tie and there has been renewed debate over how Son Heung-min is to take responsibility.

Son scored the only goal against City and will be a key player in what surely will be a counter-attacking approach.

Whether Mauricio Pochettino (right) wants to play that way will be dictated by City's inevitable dominance of possession.

But Spurs look dangerous and it will be interesting to see whether they use the pace of Lucas Moura, a hat-trick scorer last Saturday, from the start or from the bench.

Pochettino laid out what he feels is the scale of the task when he said: "Man City is one of the best in the

Tottenham ready to make Pep earn his Spurs



world and is a clear favourite to win the Premier League and the Champions League."

The Argentinian believes that Spurs must start to challenge for the Premier League and the Champions League on a regular basis now that their new stadium has been built to be in the same league as City and Europe's top clubs.

The construction of the 62,062-capacity ground has had an impact on that ambition – in January, Spurs became the first club in Premier League history to not sign a first-team player in two consecutive transfer windows.

Pochettino now hopes that such

frugality is a thing of the past and he looks to the future.

"For me, after this season, a chapter is going to be closed and we are going to start another chapter," he said.

"With our new stadium, we need to be contenders to fight for the Premier League and Champions League, and find the tools to try to be there."

The loss of Harry Winks, with a hamstring injury, is a severe blow given the control he brought to the midfield.

Dele Alli is hopeful of being included despite fracturing a hand against City.

If Alli plays, Pochettino must decide how best to use him, given how effec-

tive the midfielder was at breaking forward against City and occupying Fernandinho.

Pochettino will surely want his team to claim the away goal that would leave City needing to score three times to progress.

It is, after all, unthinkable that, having not scored in the first leg, City will again fail to register.

It is also unthinkable that Pep Guardiola will opt for the same conservative approach or that City will start without Kevin De Bruyne, who appeared close to returning to his best against Crystal Palace last Sunday.

Going beyond this stage of the competition is uncharted territory for Guardiola or, rather, it is with City, where he has fallen at the last-16 and



Cautious Milner takes Porto's gushing praise

Chris Bascombe

IN PORTO

JAMES MILNER last night dismissed a lavish tribute from Porto coach Sergio Conceicao and insisted that Liverpool must deliver a trophy before they are worthy of the description: "best team in the world".

The gushing praise was accepted with a heavy dose of scepticism by Milner and his manager Jurgen Klopp, who hinted that the premature adulation might have an ulterior motive ahead of the second leg of their Champions League quarter-final, which Liverpool lead 2-0.

"That's a nice compliment, and you get those compliments by playing good football over a sustained period

of time so we can take that as a compliment," said Milner.

"But to be that, I think you have to win trophies, and that's something we haven't done yet and something we are really trying to do this season.

"There are a lot of good teams left in the Champions League and it's down to us to prove that and go and win these games and, hopefully, win at least one trophy this season."

Klopp was just as reluctant to embrace the extravagant commendation.

"Sometimes we are really good, that's true, and maybe I can understand why he (Conceicao) said that," said Klopp.

"It is a compliment, probably, and meant as a compliment. He probably

still believes in their chances. We are not here to celebrate our situation. We are here to get to the next round. We have to fight."

Conceicao insisted he was sincere. "Liverpool give me all what I like about football. In terms of their players and the way they play in the game," said the 44-year-old.

"I like the Liverpool dynamics. I like the Liverpool game model. I like the way they play and the way they are with the ball and also without it.

"It is similar to how I see football and in a lot of these moments in a game, they are the best team in the world."

There is no prospect of Liverpool heading into Estadio de Dragao believing they are already in the semi-finals.

Last season Klopp's side won 5-0 here, yet the Liverpool manager said that was a flattering score.

His players watched a 45-minute video of Porto's last-16 win over Roma in which they overturned a 2-1 first-leg deficit.

"In the preparation I did not like (our) last game (against Porto). It was really strange," said Klopp.

"Until we were 2-0 up it was a completely open game. The players do not misunderstand. Porto is a really good team. We have to be good again. We have to play to our limit."

The odds still favour Klopp's side. Liverpool have been beaten only once by a two-goal margin this season, away to Red Star Belgrade in the group stages.

Summer football in the firing line

THE two largest leagues in the country – the Dublin and District Schoolboys' League and North Dublin Schoolboys and League – will today start the process of seeking approval from their clubs to mothball the FAI's summer football crusade.

Former CEO John Delaney and high performance director Ruud Dokter were to the fore in pushing through the change from the traditional season despite concerns that deviating from the school calendar would trigger a reduction in fixtures.

The results have been disastrous, with clubs now effectively having two off-seasons and playing far less football.



Pep Guardiola wants the City supporters to play their part as City bid to overcome a 1-0 first-leg deficit

Guardiola urges reluctant fans to turn Etihad in to cauldron

Luke Edwards

PEP GUARDIOLA challenged Manchester City’s supporters to prove to him they want to win the Champions League as he questioned their appetite for European football’s elite competition. Guardiola’s comments came as it emerged that City were still trying to sell tickets for the second leg of their quarter-final against Tottenham Hotspur. Guardiola has often squirmed when asked whether City are good enough to win the Champions League and he looked and sounded uncomfortable when challenged on the subject yesterday. He argued that it was now up to the supporters, as well as the players, to prove they wanted the club to reach the semi-finals.

Atmosphere

“I want an atmosphere like the Liverpool game (in the Premier League),” Guardiola said. “That would be enough for me, maybe a little bit better. We need it. Do it for the guys. They will have bad moments and that’s when we need our supporters.

“At this stage, without supporters we cannot go through. I’m really curious to see how our fans are going to react. I want to see that they want to get to the semi-finals; not just the players, the fans too.” Guardiola knows the success of City’s season will be defined by their next three fixtures – against Tottenham, in Europe and the Premier League, followed by the Manchester derby at Old Trafford. “I know I have to win the Champions League – the chairman told me I have to win three times in a row,” Guardiola said, sarcastically, when asked if he felt under more pressure to win the Champions League because of the expectations from above. (© Daily Telegraph, London)

the last eight in the past two seasons. Against Spurs last week it felt like Guardiola was haunted by the way Liverpool blew his team away in the first leg of their quarter-final at Anfield last season. It looked like Guardiola was hoping to keep the tie alive. He achieved that while Pochettino also achieved his goal – a clean sheet and an advantage – which means this tie could not be more delicately poised. Spurs have been European Cup semi-finalists before, under Bill Nicholson in 1962 with what is universally regarded as their greatest side, but never as part of the Champions League. Can they make history? (© Daily Telegraph, London) **Man City v Tottenham Live, Virgin Media/BT Sport, 8.0**

with large dose of salt

The previous occasion was in the Champions League final against Real Madrid. Liverpool last lost a two-goal lead to Paris St-Germain, also in this year’s group stages, but still won 3-2. The last time it happened and they lost was away at Bournemouth in December 2016. But this year’s competition has served up enough reminders of what can happen in the second leg on a hostile night in Europe with several teams retrieving seemingly impossible situations. “If we were 2-0 down and going into the home leg, would we think we were out? No way. “That’s exactly what Porto are thinking,” Klopp added. “They always have a high, intense game

and it’s played in the highest intense atmosphere. “We can compare it a little bit to the City game last year when we were 3-0 up and everybody thought, ‘halfway through’ or whatever. “We go there to win, that’s the plan. It’s not easy, we know that, but we should not think about anything else.” Although Dejan Lovran has been ruled out by illness, Klopp’s defensive options have been improved after Joe Gomez successfully came through an U-23 game last weekend, although Klopp suggested he was more likely to start on the bench. (© Daily Telegraph, London). **Porto v Liverpool Live, VM Sport/BT Sport 3, 8.0**

Classy Ajax turn back clock to send Juventus reeling

JUVENTUS1

AJAX2

AJAX WIN 3-2 ON AGGREGATE

Jack Pitt-Brooke

IN TURIN

AJAX have now turned football on its head twice. And if you would bet against them doing it a third time next month and a fourth time in June then you should start paying attention. This is the greatest story in the modern history Champions League because it is entirely at odds with every other page of it. This is a historic club but a financially powerless one. David only killed one Goliath; Ajax have now done it twice. Last month they beat triple champions Real Madrid 4-1 at the Bernabeu – a result applauded all over Europe in part because it felt like watching Halley’s Comet, seeing a poor team outclass a rich team that comprehensively.

And last night, Ajax produced their second once-in-a-lifetime game, beating Juventus on their own patch, killing their second Goliath. Ajax are now in the semi-finals for the first time since 1997, back when they could still compete with sides like Juventus as equals, not financial inferiors.

Easily

They could easily beat Tottenham or Manchester City over two legs if they play like this and they could win the Madrid final on 1 June too. But regardless of whether Ajax go on to repeat what they last did in 1995, they have already done something far more important than simply winning a football competition. They have proved a point – twice. Johan Cruyff famously once said Ajax should believe that they can beat richer clubs because, after all, he had never seen a bag of money score a goal. It might have been flippant, unrealistic, and at odds with every development in football for 30 years. But it was also inspirational and this Ajax team have now lived up to that inspiration twice.

Ajax’s wage bill is less than the richer Championship clubs, or Celtic, but they have turned that into a source of strength this season, taking points from Bayern Munich, doing the unthinkable to Real Madrid and now to Juventus, the team who paid Real £88m for Ronaldo last summer. Ronaldo scored here, as he always does in the quarter-finals, giving Juventus a 2-1 aggregate lead. But that was his last contribution as Ajax seized control and never gave it back. Donny van de Beek equalised, Matthijs De Ligt headed the winner, and Ajax missed plenty of chances in a second half that was just as good as their one in the Bernabeu. Juventus begun with all of the force of a team desperate to crush an opponent who had gotten a little bit



Matthijs de Ligt celebrates after scoring the winner for Ajax

too big for their boots. They pressed Ajax all over the pitch, smacking into every tackle, never letting them settle into the passing rhythm they found in Amsterdam. Even Frenkie De Jong, the brilliant orchestrator last Wednesday, was effectively squeezed out of the game for the first 20 minutes. But, after weathering the storm, Ajax started to play the better football, just as they did last week, getting a foothold in the Juventus half. And, yet, it was Juventus who took the lead, Ronaldo heading in a Miralem Pjanic corner after finding himself free in the box. It took Ajax only six minutes for to equalise. When Hakim Ziyech scuffed a shot from distance, it fell to Van de Beek, who looked offside but was played on by Federico Bernardeschi. The Juve defence

stopped, Van de Beek carried on and slotted the ball past Wojciech Szczesny. A scrappy goal but quite in keeping with the first half. At 1-1 the second half was there to be seized and there was an expectation Juventus would come out hard. But instead they walked straight into an Ajax flurry that floored them. This was the Ajax that did for Real Madrid, brave, inventive and precise. Both full backs up, De Jong in charge, Dusan Tadic dropping deep with runners beyond him. Black shirts moving in fast harmony leaving the defenders frozen on the pitch. Finally, after 20 minutes of daring, dominant football, De Ligt scored the winner. It was conventional move: Lasse Schone’s outswining corner, De Ligt’s big leap and strong neck, thumping the ball into the corner. (© Independent News Service)

SCOREBOARD

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

QUARTER FINALS SECOND LEG

BARCELONA (2) 3MAN UTD (0) 0

Messi 16,20
Coutinho 61
Agg: 4-0.
Barcelona: ter Stegen, Sergi Roberto (Nelson Semedo 71), Pique, Lenglet, Jordi Alba, Rakitic, Busquets, Arthur (Vidal 75), Messi, Suarez, Coutinho (Dembele 81). **Booked:** Suarez.
Man Utd: de Gea, Jones, Lindelof, Smalling, Young, McTominay, Fred, Pogba, Lingard (Sanchez 79), Rashford (Lukaku 73), Martial (Dalot 65).
JUVENTUS (1) 1AJAX (1) 2

Ronaldo 28van de Beek 34
de Ligt 67

Agg: 2-3.
Juventus: Szczesny, De Sciglio (Joao Cancelo 64), Rugani, Bonucci, Alex Sandro, Can, Pjanic, Matuidi, Bernardeschi (Bentancur 81), Dybala (Kean 46), Ronaldo. **Booked:** Can, Ronaldo.
Ajax: Onana, Veltman, de Ligt, Blind, Mazraoui (Sinkgraven 11 (Magallan 82)), Schone, De Jong, Ziyech (Huntelaar 88), van de Beek, Neres, Tadic.

LADBROKES SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

MORTON (2) 2INVERNESS CT (1) 2

Lyon 27
Kiltie 42 pen
Att 1,315

McDonald 18
McCauley 88

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ross Cnty	33	19	8	6	54	30	65
Dundee U	33	17	8	8	45	39	59
Ayr Utd	32	14	8	10	46	32	50
Inverness CT	33	12	14	7	45	37	50
Dunfrmline	33	11	8	14	32	36	41
Alloa	33	10	8	15	36	48	38
Morton	33	8	13	12	32	45	37
Queen Sth	33	8	11	14	39	40	35
Falkirk	33	8	11	14	34	43	35
Partick	32	9	7	16	36	49	34

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

BRIGHTON (0) 0CARDIFF (1) 2

Mendez-Laing 22
Morrison 50

Att 30,226
Brighton: Ryan, Salter, Duffy, Dunk, Bernardo, Gross (Andone 54), Stephens, Propper, Jahanbakhsh (Izquierdo 69), Murray, March.
Cardiff: Etheridge, Peltier, Morrison, Ecuale Manga, Bennett, Gunnarson (Bacuna 55), Ralls, Mendez-Laing (Harris 80), Victor Camarasa, Hoilett, Niasse (Zohore 85). **Booked:** Bennett.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	34	26	7	1	77	20	85
Man City	33	27	2	4	86	22	83
Tottenham	33	22	1	10	64	34	67
Arsenal	33	20	6	7	66	40	66
Chelsea	34	20	6	8	57	36	66
Man Utd	33	19	7	7	63	44	64
Leicester	34	14	5	15	46	45	47
Wolves	33	13	8	12	41	42	47
Everton	34	13	7	14	46	44	46
Watford	33	13	7	13	47	48	46
West Ham	34	12	6	16	42	52	42
Bournemouth	34	12	5	17	49	61	41
Crystal Palace	34	11	6	17	40	46	39
Burnley	34	11	6	17	42	60	39
Newcastle	34	10	8	16	32	43	38
Southmptn	33	9	9	15	39	54	36
Brighton	33	9	6	18	32	53	33
Cardiff	34	9	4	21	30	63	31
Fulham	34	5	5	24	32	76	20
Huddersfd	34	3	5	26	19	67	14

TODAY'S FIXTURES

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - QUARTER FINAL - SECOND LEG

FC Porto (0) v Liverpool (2) (8.00)

Man City (0) v Tottenham Hotspur (1) (8.00).



Sport



TALKING POINT

JASON
BURT

United caught trying to cover deep wounds with bandages

Solskjaer must ask himself, his players and the club some serious questions as he plots future

NOTHING summed it up more than the sight of Lionel Messi beating Phil Jones once, twice and the second time with a nutmeg, to create another chance for Barcelona.

Jones, with his head bandaged, appeared to represent how Manchester United have attempted to cover up the wounds of recent seasons and have to deal now with their brutal shortcomings. Except he recently signed a new four-year contract.

It is cruel, maybe, to single out Jones when any player can be made foolish when confronted with genius, but he was part of a back four, a back five including goalkeeper David De Gea, which had featured when United were knocked out of the Champions League group stages by Basel in 2011.

That is eight seasons and hundreds upon hundreds of millions spent in the transfer market later. And they have gone backwards.

But then nothing summed up the quandary over United's future more than the sight of record signing Paul Pogba being delivered a midfield lesson by Sergio Busquets and Ivan Rakitic.

Pogba played a superb pass to release Marcus Rashford in the opening seconds, as the forward clipped the bar.

But that was it. His other most memorable contribution was to dawdle and lose possession and kick out three times at Arthur but somehow avoid a booking.

And this a player who cost United €105 million and whose future appears uncertain – again – with those Real Madrid links resurfacing.

The truth is Pogba owes United and



Lionel Messi shoots past Manchester United's Phil Jones to score Barcelona's second goal and, right, Messi celebrates at the Nou Camp and receives the congratulations of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

it will be for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the manager, to decide whether he is worth it, whether he will see through with his previous statement that the team should be built around him, or whether if a genuine offer is received he should use that money as part of his rebuilding programme.

These questions came quickly to mind, and many more, because this tie

was over inside 20 minutes.

Forget the spirit of Barcelona and 1999. United were two goals down and needed to summon a response from the semi-final that year, not the final, when they came back from the same scoreline to defeat Juventus away, 3-2.

It was never going to happen here. Not a chance. There was no one to play the Roy Keane role for a start and those

Messi goals deflated them; took the wind right out of them.

The jeopardy had gone and their weak response was telling.

What now for United? What now for Solskjaer?

Any team can succumb to Messi's genius, but the opening period was a summary of Solskjaer's reign so far.

Just as he won 14 of his first 17 games

Unstoppable Messi highlights United's failure to make any

BARCELONA

3

MANCHESTER UTD

0

BARCELONA WIN 4-0 ON AGG

Sam Wallace

THERE is only one Champions League anniversary of theirs that Manchester United can say has been honoured in appropriate fashion this season, and that is the 10 years they have spent trying in vain to stop Lionel Messi.

This was just another evening when the unconquerable talent of the world's best footballer was the decisive factor in the end of another United European season, although

there were days when that at least came in the final.

Alex Ferguson was on the touchline before the game shaking hands with old acquaintances and how different his life too would have been without the little king from Argentina and his dramatic interventions in two finals.

Ferguson's United faced peak Messi, although it can be hard to identify much in the way of a decline on evenings like this when, 10 years on from his first Champions League final triumph over United, they seem no closer to stopping him.

His first goal was so good it seemed to shock United into obeisance and they never recovered.

At some point before half-time, Messi dribbled past Phil Jones twice, either side of sending the inconveniently-placed German

referee Felix Brych the wrong way with a sway of the hips.

It would be wrong to ignore a vintage Barcelona team performance, an outstanding third goal from Philippe Coutinho and the usual midfield excellence from Ivan Rakitic and Arthur.

There was the restless foraging of Luis Suarez. But it is Messi who routinely reminds the opposition that they are in the presence of greatness and that scrambles their competitive instincts like nothing else.

All of which is not to excuse some very poor aspects of this United performance, including a David De Gea catastrophe for the second goal.

It would be easy to point the finger at the old boys of United's defence, but Jones, Ashley Young and Chris Smalling can at least say they did

what they could.

Paul Pogba, Anthony Martial and Alexis Sanchez, a second-half substitute, seemed incapable of moving the dial in this game.

Messi might well have scored a hat-trick, an overhead kick with his weaker right foot going wide in the second half.

Maybe the home crowd preferred him to save the rest for their first semi-final – most likely against Liverpool, or possibly Porto – since they last won the competition in 2015.

The strange thing was that it started so well for United, as if there was a plan to make the first few minutes as wild as possible for Barcelona and see what happened.

Rashford struck the bar after 35 seconds, a funny kind of shot that Marc-Andre ter Stegen knew was

not on target from the moment it left the young Englishman's boot. But what a chance, and the same could be said for Scott McTominay less than two minutes later.

The 22-year-old midfielder seemed not to believe that the ball had really reached him in a move that went from left to right across the Barcelona box, made by Fred and Rashford. McTominay's first touch was irredeemable, so bad there was no saving the moment or the chance.

The problem with this United team is not hard to divine when you consider that three of the defence were Ferguson signings, Smalling, Young and, at right-back, Jones.

There was nothing wrong with the efforts of these three but it is these games against the highest-quality opposition when the post-Ferguson



The presence of Sanchez, on the bench before he came on when it was all over, was the prime indicator of what has to be done



The fact is that De Gea has not justified his billing as the world's best goalkeeper of late and it has to be concluded that the uncertainty over his future, his demands for pay parity with the highest-earner, Alexis Sanchez, have been a distraction.

The Norwegian coach clearly understated matters when he claimed Barca were "a couple of levels" above his side over the two legs.

The reality is there is so much out of kilter at United which Solskjær has to unstitch – or rip apart – as he begins to stamp his authority on the team.

The presence of Sanchez, fit again, but on the bench before he came on when it was all over was the prime indicator of what has to be done.

The ludicrously-remunerated forward has to go for the health of the team as well as United's wage bill.

Alongside Sanchez was Romelu Lukaku who has not scored since those two goals in Paris in the last round and with his new agent already suggesting his client may one day want to play in Serie A. So let him go, also.

Started

"If you want the result you need a performance and we started well and created some decent chances but then he (Messi) hits it in the bottom corner and I've got to say, it's top quality. He was the difference," Solskjær added.

"If we want to get back to Manchester United's true tradition and level we have got to get to challenge the Barcelonas, and I've got to say they were a couple of levels above us in those 90 minutes and at Old Trafford."

Again there is so much noise around United that is symptomatic of a club that still needs to reset itself; of a regime that needs to take control. And, by the way, is still waiting for that technical director to come in.

The future clearly lies with Rashford, Anthony Martial, Jesse Lingard and hopefully De Gea and Pogba but, really, who else? The scale of the task is frightening. As frightening as Messi running at Jones. (© Daily Telegraph, London)

to seal the job on a permanent basis, his team started excellently.

But just as Solskjær's reign has stuttered then so did United, and just as the club has struggled through self-inflicted wounds and terrible mistakes then so were both goals delivered in that way to Barcelona.

Messi's blur of brilliance claimed the first but only after an awful piece of

play by Ashley Young who attempted a Cruyff Turn – at Johan Cruyff's spiritual home – with Messi whisking the ball away.

For the second it was a clear error by De Gea and maybe he was distracted by the fact he had already been beaten by Messi with such an accurately whipped shot that he allowed his next effort to squirm beneath him.

real progress in post-Ferguson era

years of failed renewal or upgrade are laid bare.

None of those three made a mistake quite so catastrophic as De Gea but they invite the kind of trouble that Messi and his teammates can deliver.

For about 15 minutes, nonetheless, United looked competent and dangerous and then it all just fell apart in one dazzling Messi moment when his opponents were forced to confront their limitations.

Before then there was a happy intervention for the video assistant referee when match official Brych quickly corrected the erroneous award of a penalty against Fred.

The German referee was in front of the VAR screen less time than he might have needed at the airport cash machine to realise that Ivan Rakitic had kicked the leg of the

United midfielder, the latter having won the ball cleanly.

The VAR was good, the penalty overruled and the outlook hopeful for United.

Then, at left-back, Young gave the ball away on the left side and suddenly Messi was travelling at twice the speed of everyone else in the frame.

He went past Young, picked up speed as he deceived Fred and it was hard to tell if he even noticed Jones. The left-foot shot was wrapped around De Gea's right hand and inside his right post.

It was such a stark reminder of one man's effect on the sport and who knows if that was playing on minds when Messi scored his 45th of the season four minutes later.

He only hit the shot because nothing else was on and it bounced

under the gloves of De Gea who, in normal circumstances, catches those without having to think.

The tie felt beyond United already at that point and it had barely started.

There was one more from Coutinho, a goal made by Messi's pass and Suarez's selfless knockdown to the third South American in the home side front line.

He struck it beautifully with his right, over the head of De Gea.

The United goalkeeper kept out another late hit from Messi, although by then there was no questioning who was in charge as he goes in pursuit of his fifth Champions League medal.

At times like this it feels as if he will never stop. (© Daily Telegraph, London)

INSIDE LINES

BOXING

Hogan to challenge Munguia fight result

THE result of Dennis Hogan's world title fight in Mexico last weekend has been formally challenged.

Hogan's manager Paul Keegan has sent a letter to the World Boxing Organisation disputing the outcome of the contest which the Kilcullen-born, Brisbane-based fighter lost on a majority 2-0 decision.

Many independent observers felt the 34-year-old underdog had done enough to wrestle the WBO super-welterweight belt from the unbeaten champion Jaime Munguia, but the judges saw the contest differently.

While one scored it 114-114, two others sided with the local hero 116-112, 115-113.

There is no prospect of the WBO overturning the result but it is within their remit to order a rematch.

RUGBY

McBryde to fill Leinster scrum coach role

WALES assistant coach Robin McBryde is the front-runner for the soon-to-be vacant Leinster scrum coach job, WRITES RÚAIDHRÍ O'CONNOR.

The 37-times capped former international hooker has been part of Warren Gatland's backroom team for more than a decade but will leave that role when the Kiwi departs after the World Cup.

Along with Hurricanes coach Dan Cron, McBryde was identified as a leading candidate to replace John Fogarty who is set to link up with Andy Farrell's Ireland in 2020.

The Irish Independent understands McBryde, who helped turn the Wales set-piece into a formidable weapon, is the preferred candidate to replace for Fogarty.

CYCLING

Unexpected victory puts Bennett in pole position

SAM BENNETT took over where he left off last year when he won the opening stage of the Presidential Tour of Turkey in Tekirdag yesterday, writes Gerard Cromwell.

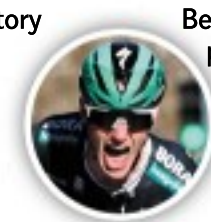
Bennett (below), who has seven previous stage wins in the WorldTour race to his name, including victory in last year's final stage, timed his sprint perfectly yesterday to snatch victory ahead of recent Scheldeprijs winner Fabio Jakobsen (Deceuninck-Quickstep) and Lotto-Soudal's Caleb Ewan, despite a short break from racing after a strong early-season campaign.

"I took 10 days off the bike after Milan-San-Remo and my form dropped quite a bit so I didn't expect to get the win today," Bennett (above) told the *Irish Independent* afterwards.

"It's on the way back up but it's not quite there yet and Jakobsen won last

week and is going very well so it was a bit of a surprise.

"The team gathered around me with 2km to go and they did a fantastic job to get me to the front in the finale and then I was able to come off the wheels, so I'm happy."



Bennett's Bora-Hansgrohe squad placed him perfectly in the final kilometre before he latched on to the Quickstep lead-out train in the final few hundred metres and pounced from there.

The Carrick-on-Suir sprinter now leads the points competition and race overall, although he's unsure about retaining the leader's jersey on today's uphill finish in Eceabat.

"Today was more about experience in the sprint but if I have to pull myself uphill to the sprint it could be a different story. I don't know, sometimes after a break you find yourself there with good legs so we'll try," he said.

SOCCER

Scholes charged over gambling rules breach

THE English FA has charged Paul Scholes with breaching gambling rules by betting on games.

The FA allege the former Manchester United midfielder placed 140 bets on matches between August 2015 and January this year, covering a period when he was a director at fifth-tier club Salford City.

Scholes resigned as a Salford director in February to become manager of Oldham but lasted only 31 days.

Meanwhile, Barnsley have complained to the FA over the alleged tunnel assault on manager Daniel Stendel by Fleetwood Town boss Joey Barton.

Stendel was left with blood pouring from his face following Saturday's League One game between the sides and South Yorkshire Police are investigating.

SNOOKER

Dott remains on course for Crucible

FORMER world champion Graeme Dott advanced in his quest to make the main draw at the Crucible with a healthy 7-2 overnight lead against Kurt Maflin at the final round of qualification.

The Scot, who claimed the spoils in Sheffield in 2006, rounded off yesterday's session with a superb 135 clearance to put himself on the front foot.

Ali Carter, who knocked out Jimmy White at the penultimate stage of the competition, also enjoyed an overnight advantage after finishing last night's session 6-3 ahead of John Astley.

Elsewhere, rising Chinese star Zhao Xintong, who seeks a World Championship debut, built a 7-2 lead over Matthew Selt in yesterday's session, recoring breaks of 54, 124, 79, 72 and 51 along the way.

WEDNESDAY Sport

Irish Independent  Independent.ie 
Wednesday, April 17, 2019

WHEN PLAYERS
WALK AWAY FROM
THE CHAMPIONSHIP
ALARM BELLS
SHOULD BE
RINGING

Breheny Beat
Page 51



BLEYENDAAL
WAS MADE
FOR WEEKS
LIKE THIS -
VAN GRAAN
Page 49



FESTIVAL WINNERS
'DUC' AND 'TARD' SET
FOR FAIRYHOUSE DUEL
Page 47

BARCELONA 3 MANCHESTER UNITED 0

Messi too hot to handle

No happy return for Solskjaer as United have no answer to genius of Barca talisman



Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea looks back into his own net forlornly after letting a shot from Barcelona's Lionel Messi slip under him. Barcelona won 4-0 on aggregate REUTERS

GAELIC GAMES

'GAA should be more like rugby'

Michael Verney

LEE KEEGAN has lashed out at drink bans and the attitude towards alcohol in the GAA with the Mayo star insisting that players would be better served if they were shown more trust and leniency. The former Footballer of the Year stressed the need for a culture change within the GAA to allow for more balance between football and life away from the pitch, like many professional athletes.

"You sit in the pub even having a MiWadi and the heads are staring over at you, 'why is he in here?'"

"If you can't have a normal life like that, what's the point of... I think it's

just the culture within GAA," four-time All-Star Keegan said.

"I always look at professional sports and particularly rugby, they have their few beers after their game and they train two days later and perform at the highest level the week after.

"That's the way the way the GAA should look at it as well.

"It's part and parcel of life. If you can't enjoy life with a bit of success or even if you lose to have a few beers with your mates, that's part of sport and you have to have that as well.

"There has to be a balance, if you are always locked into GAA, what is there out there for yourself?"

SEE PAGE 50

RUGBY

Lancaster: Leinster will need O'Brien at his best for semi

Rúaidhrí O'Connor

LEINSTER need Seán O'Brien at his best in Sunday's European semi-final against Toulouse, according to Stuart Lancaster.

"The Tullow Tank" (right) has yet to get back to top form after a succession of injuries and was dropped from the Ireland squad during the Six Nations before being recalled to face Wales, but the ex-England coach says he is slowly getting his confidence back.

With Dan Leavy and Josh van der Flier out for the season, the province need O'Brien to find his mojo and Lancaster believes the signs are there that he'll produce a big performance

against their fellow four-time European champions.

"He knows that without Dan or Josh there, we need him," he said.

"We need him playing in that No 7 role so he can completely focus the attention on that.

"The good thing is, on the bench, you've got the likes of Max (Deegan) or Caelan (Doris) - young players with great experience.

"He's getting there. Another good week this week and I think he'll be flying on Sunday.

"You can't underestimate how long it takes for a player to get over that

particular type of injury, but I think when I look at him now moving, when I look at him training and I look at his collision impact... I thought it was much better in the Glasgow game."

Meanwhile, ahead of Saturday's meeting with Munster, Saracens coach Mark McCall says Billy Vunipola will have to get used to being booed by fans after he received a warning from the club and the RFU for his homophobic comments on social media.

"He has got to deal with that, and we've got to deal with that as a group," he said.



Motors



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MOTORING COLUMN
IN SATURDAY'S WEEKEND REVIEW**

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Hybrids use electric power most of the time, new Irish study reveals

Eddie Cunningham

HYBRIDS drive solely on electric power for more than 60pc of the time they are on the road, a new Irish university study reveals.

The research by UCD academics also shows that, even over long journeys, hybrids manage to travel more than half the time without the engine running.

Hybrids are often perceived to be at their best in urban driving – and at their worst on longer journeys.

The UCD study found that overall, and including long-distance commutes, the Toyota Prius hybrids were in zero emissions mode (ZEV) for 62pc of the time and more than 40pc of the distance covered. ZEV is when the engine is not running.

The research measured seven drivers during their normal weekly routes – they racked up 2,000km between them in the Prius models.

In city centre commuting, the hybrids were in zero emissions mode for 75pc of the time and drove more than half the distance on electric/battery power.

The three drivers with the longest commutes had the best fuel economy (almost 60mpg).

The study, published today, was commissioned by Toyota Ireland. Research was conducted through ConsultUCD and authored by professors Robert Shorten and Giovanni Russo, UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Prof Francesco Pilla, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Planning, and Prof David Timoney, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering.

Their research tracked seven drivers who commuted to UCD, Belfield from

Start point of commute	Driver	Total Distance for each driver [km]	% ZEV Time for each driver	% ZEV Distance for each driver	Average Speed for Driver [km/h]	Average fuel/km [l/100km]	% Motorway Distance for Driver
Smithfield	Driver 1	119.7	76%	57.3%	11.0	5.438	0.0%
Wicklow	Driver 2	293.9	56.2%	40.6%	42.5	4.562	76.5%
Drogheda	Driver 3	644.2	56.6%	36.9%	33.3	4.890	48.4%
Dundrum	Driver 4	328.3	64%	49.5%	17.8	5.183	16.1%
Dundrum	Driver 5	115.6	66%	54.6%	20.3	5.317	13.6%
Blackrock	Driver 6	263.9	66.5%	48.0%	23.2	5.321	9.3%
Aughrim	Driver 7	452.6	56.5%	30.0%	39.3	4.914	29.0%
	ALL	2,018	62%	40.4%	27	4.92	28%

Drogheda, Wicklow, Aughrim, Smithfield, Blackrock and Dundrum (2) over a full week last November. The commute was in addition to normal family driving.

Their conclusions are based on analysis of more than 2,000km of typical motorway, rural-road and city-route driving.

The researchers measured the time the cars spent in zero emissions versus engine-running modes. No guidelines were given to the drivers.

Prof Timoney said: "Highlights of the study include a high percentage of zero-emissions driving recorded across a wide range of conditions.

"Also noteworthy is the close agreement of the measured fuel economy with the official Worldwide Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure figure."

Toyota corporate affairs director Mark Teevan said: "This is the first study of this type carried out in Ireland and we anticipate its results would be replicated across the country."

The study also showed that for the journey from Smithfield to UCD, the hybrid was in zero emissions mode three-quarters (76pc) of the time and for more than

half (57pc) the distance. Drivers from Dundrum and Blackrock were in zero emissions for two-thirds (64-67pc) of the time.

Those commuting from Drogheda, Aughrim and Wicklow town spent 56pc in ZEV over the respective 644km, 452km and 293km driven during the week.

Average consumption was 4.92 litres/100km (57mpg). Average CO2 emissions were 114.2grammes/km. The three drivers with the longest commutes averaged almost 60mpg.

In conclusion the report's authors say: "The study was funded and commissioned by Toyota Ireland.

"A key methodological difference with a previous Toyota study in Rome is that the present study is based on commuting behaviour of a population of seven UCD employees, rather than a single vehicle traversing a predetermined route.

"The total aggregated distance was 2,018km accumulated over 157 trips.

"Overall, it was found that, on average, the car was in ZEV mode for 62pc of the commuting time and for 40.4pc of the average commuting distance."

Mercedes GLE 'makes case' for big diesel SUV

FIRST DRIVE MERCEDES GLE

Eddie Cunningham

MERCEDES unveiled their new large SUV 4x4, the GLE, here this week. The old GLE was overshadowed by higher-profiled BMW X5 and Audi Q7 rivals, but there's a lot more style and substance to this. And they are pointing at significant price differences that favour the GLE over the rival duo. They expect 300 to buy one in a full year, claiming an additional €9,000 worth of spec over the old one.

Prices start from €78,395 (GLE 300d 4MATIC) and from €95,995 (GLE 450 petrol 4MATIC).

There are three levels: Standard, AMG Design (up to 23in wheels) and high performance AMG53 (coming in the fourth quarter).

They expect 80pc of buyers to opt for the AMG Design with the 300d, 245bhp engine (one of the family they've spent €3bn developing). You can get exterior AMG design only, or inside and out. It costs around €6,000 more than Standard.

The new car has a longer wheelbase (80mm+) which means more cabin space and shorter overhangs.

The old one was a workhorse. This is too – it is a 4x4 SUV with 3,500kg towing capacity after all – but with a lot more style as they seek younger buyers.

I took it for a quick drive in west Dublin. It's a big car with a wheelbase of nearly three metres and I could easily see room for seven passengers (an extra row of rear two costs from



€2,900 – they fold flat). You can, optionally, electrically adjust the second row. If you fold the third and second rows you get nearly 2,000 litres of luggage capacity.

The larger dimensions mean increased front, rear headroom, better elbow and shoulder room too.

There are four diesels: 300d, 350d, 400d and 450d. Euro 6d emissions standards for next January are met with an after-treatment system they claim reduces NOx emissions to 20mg/km.

The MBUX driver assistance/infotainment system is standard; the huge twin-screen layout is exceptional. What a lovely front to a cabin.

They're making a big thing of the

(optional) E-Active Body Control system. It manages spring, damping forces and has a rocking mode to extricate the car from difficult off-road situations. That's why they say it can 'dance on the spot'.

Is there demand for a big 4x4 diesel at a time when there is such push towards petrol and hybrid? Mercedes say there is; that people need a vehicle like this. That is why they reckon 300 will buy one in its first full year.

Its arrival marks the start of a busy time for the marque.

A plug-in GLE (claimed 100km EV range) is due in the fourth quarter.

The A-Class saloon arrives in a couple of weeks to rival the Audi A3 saloon.

Then there is the new CLA which, being larger, is being pushed as competition for the Audi A4/BMW 3-series. After that comes the facelifted GLC (new engines and 200d version for the first time).

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181	A5 2.0 TDI 190 BHP ST S Line	4,270 Km	North Dublin	€45,000	€17,920
181	A5 Coupe 2.0 TDI 190hp ST S Line	1,000 Km	Limerick	€44,999	€17,012
182	A6 5.0 TDI 286BHP quattro S Line	9,000 Km	Limerick	€65,499	€16,200
181	A6 Avant 2.0 TDI 190 S-tronic	23,000 Km	Limerick	€42,999	€15,155
182	A4 2.0 TDI 150 BHP S Line	3,413 Km	North Dublin	€37,750	€11,756
182	A4 2.0 TDI 150 BHP SE	14,000 Km	North Dublin	€33,000	€11,712
182	A3 1.6 TDI 116 BHP S Line	8,000 Km	North Dublin	€32,000	€6,765

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Why you can stay safe on the road by making sure to learn the code

Special competition, now in its fourth year, encourages children to show us and others how to cross road safely

RSA EXPERT

Do you know the code?
1,2,3, Safe Cross;
4,5,6, Safe Cross;
1,2,3,4,5,6, Safe Cross Code
Remember: One, look for a safe place.
Two, don't hurry, stop and wait.
Three, look all around and listen before you cross the road.
Remember, Four, let all the traffic pass you.
Five, then walking straight across you.
Six, keep watching.
That's the Safe Cross Code!



WHETHER seven or 70, you probably know the Safe Cross Code song.

Originally written by Chris Darby, it was first recorded by Brendan Grace back in 1974 and was learned by a generation of 1970s children.

Fast forward to 2019, its core road safety message is still as relevant today as it was 45 years ago. So, we decided to bring a re-packaged Safe Cross Code to a new generation of schoolchildren.

We have updated it to the modern way to learn that involves all the senses.

The Safe Cross Code song, while a fun way to learn, uses visual, aural and verbal learning styles of teaching serious and valuable messages around good road behaviour.

Making sure you cross in a safe place where there is good visibility in both directions, waiting for traffic to pass, and being observant at all times are all useful pieces of advice to keep pedestrians safe.

But some children also prefer to learn 'kinaesthetically'.

That means they learn better

using their body, hands and sense of touch.

So with the updated Safe Cross Code song comes a new dance, a fun, 'kinaesthetic' way to learn how to cross the road safely practised in playgrounds and schoolyards all over the country.

The RSA has launched the Safe Cross Code Dance Competition 2019 for primary school students.

Now entering its fourth year, the competition encourages children to show us, and others, how to cross the road safely.

Along with their teachers, students nationwide, from junior infants to sixth class, recreate the dance, performing the song in either Irish or English, for a chance to win great prizes for their school.

Schools not only get to have fun but also to learn valuable life lessons.

Every year, we get creative entries with high levels of choreography from everywhere. In 2018, Castletown girls school in Dundalk were our English-category winners and Scoil Mologa in Dub-

lin took the Irish-category award. Learning good road safety behaviour at a young age lasts a lifetime.

Teaching children, the most vulnerable of road users, how to cross the road safely is such an important life skill. Unfortunately, we have seen in recent years just how vulnerable pedestrians of all ages are on our roads.

In 2018 42 pedestrians were killed on Irish roads. In a year when road deaths declined by 5pc compared to 2017, pedestrian deaths increased by a third. That is a worrying trend.

There are many ways in which we can all work to keep pedestrians safer – encouraging motorists to slow down and drive at an appropriate speed, not to drink and drive, and to put their mobile phones away is one.

Education plays a crucial role in permanently reducing deaths and injuries on Irish roads. If we can instil the importance of road safety to the very young, we will start them on the right journey as road users.

So if you know any primary school students who are creative, like to dance and want to support road safety messaging, encourage them to take part in the Safe Cross Code dance competition.

It's really easy to enter and all the details are on www.rsa.ie. Teachers have until May 10 to submit their pupils' creation, show their support for road safety and have some fun at the same time!

If like me you're well past the age limit to qualify for an entry to the competition, then maybe a reminder of Judge's words from Wanderly Wagon are in order remember: One, look for a safe place...



First the dream and then the reality of Ireland making exotic electric cars

Eddie Cunningham

IT was impossible to ignore the feeling that a little bit of history was being made as I silently steamed down the 'back straight' in an electric Ferrari at Powerscourt last week.

The car, and the drive, brought together several strands of a story few could have imagined a couple of years back. This was a real, not imaginary, foretaste of things to come.

Yes, the Electrifi company is to invest €50m developing a range of high-performance electric cars over the next three years in Co Wicklow. That means they will become the first company to make cars in Ireland in almost 40 years.

Manufacturing has already started in the Electrifi's sister plant based in Wales; with first cars to leave the Irish plant by the end of the year.

I spoke with the Electrifi founder, Cork-born Norman Crowley, who believes this could be the start of something big for the Irish economy.

From Clonakilty near Ballinascorthy, the home of Henry Ford, Mr Crowley's father led the fundraising for the statue of the Model T that adorns the village.

It's a nice little link with the man who revolutionised transport in his time.

Mr Crowley believes the potential for transformative change right now creates huge opportunities for

"new and existing" players in the automotive sector.

"The global market opportunity in electric vehicles is predicted to top more than \$500bn between now and 2025," he adds.

On that basis, he believes a revived car manufacturing industry here could employ more than 30,000 with huge spin-offs for the economy.

Initially Electrifi will modify classics from Ferrari, Lamborghini and Aston Martin into electric cars with Formula 1 style performance.

They will be rebuilt and configured with latest technology and powered by Tesla batteries and motors.

We will see a new range of fully electrified classic cars early next

year, it is hoped. But they are going to cost a lot. Prices will kick off at €750,000 for higher-end models.

Over time far more affordable cars – costing €30,000 – will come on stream.

Money does not seem to be an object for high-end buyers: Electrifi has already sold out its capacity for the next 18 months; cars are being shipped to the UK, Middle East and US.

From later this year, visitors to the company's Powerscourt estate headquarters will be able to see the cars being hand built and tested.

They may be dream machines for many now but they carry real prospects.

Why grown-up Mercedes CLA can take on bigger rivals



Eddie Cunningham, Munich

AS no one has contradicted my guesstimate price of the new Mercedes compact CLA 4dr Coupe from Mercedes which gets to Ireland next month, I reckon it's safe to say it will start around €34,000.

The CLA slots between the A-Class (on whose platform it is built) and the C-Class saloon and, with its larger dimensions, is now viewed more as an Audi A4/BMW 3-series competitor.

As I've already outlined its non-driving details I won't repeat them. All that was left to report on,

due to a specific embargo, was the

driving impressions: the handling and ride.

I've just driven the 200 Coupe (1.3-litre 4cyl petrol, 163hp), the 180d (4cyl, 1.5, 116hp diesel) and the 2-litre 4cyl 250 4MATIC.

While driving characteristics varied somewhat between the three there was sufficient evidence, especially with the small petrol, to believe they've got a right good chassis underpinning this stylish new frame.

Yes, I agree, they'll need it if they are going to pitch it against the lower-end models of the 3-series.

But there is no doubting how well the smaller-engined models

handled over a variety of roads out here.

The steering was firmly precise and there was plenty of feedback from the car when cornering or accelerating.

It is far more of a driver's motor now.

The multi-link rear axle did as it was expected: cut noise, vibration and body roll.

By the way, the active adaptive damping system is optional.

A real surprise was how sweetly the smaller petrol engine performed. It may be a 'baby', but it hums to a lot of power. I can see it being something of a favourite.

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Expert is convinced we'll soon be buying electric cars in our droves



IN FOCUS ELECTRIFICATION

Eddie Cunningham

IT is 'highly likely' we will see electric vehicles (EVs) take a 10pc share of the new-car market by the end of next year, a world expert told me in Dublin.

Kjell Arne Wold (*right*), from Audi headquarters, says the advent of more, and less expensive, cars alongside the growing perception of serious savings on running costs will swing buyers to electric in ever increasing numbers.

He's prepared to go further than that: "As we head towards 2025 it (electric vehicle market share) will surpass 30pc. And it could even be dramatically higher because many governments have signposted bans on fossil fuels. In Ireland's case it's 2030."

But Kjell points out: "It (the ban) is not going to happen in 2030. It will happen well in advance so there will be a sharp increase in the number of electric vehicles being bought."

Kjell is project manager Audi e-tron launch and spoke at the recent tech summit in Dublin.

He previously worked for seven years at Tesla, helping to establish its success in northern Europe from



2010 until 2017 before joining Audi on the e-tron electric vehicle project. So he is well placed to give insight into what the overall future holds for us as he leads his own brand's electrification strategy.

As an electric car driver of 10 years, he is convinced the advent of EV is "happening very quickly".

He adds: "I think right now it's a struggle to keep up and to keep people educated."

"We can't be too careful; it is a big change for many people. Technology is changing quicker than people. Over the next few years – up to 2022 – the automakers will really

be tapping into the premium and expensive electric cars: Tesla, Audi e-tron, Jaguar."

But the real take-up surge will come as carmakers move into less expensive vehicles that are mass produced for smaller families and first-time buyers.

Kjell is at pains to emphasise how important it is that people are educated on matters such as range and consumption. He believes the old fear of running out of battery power has been, or certainly is being, overtaken by a compelling argument to save money on running costs.

Important too is the need to have a car that is solid and sound (a dig at the perceived quality of non-established car builders perhaps?).

"It is now a battle on range and consumption when really the question is that the car is a good car. Whether buying a Hyundai Kona or an Audi e-tron the real need is that it is a safe car and you need to be taken care of when you have a problem," he says.

"When you transition you should be more concerned about quality and not range."

He argues that Tesla has changed from really expensive high-powered cars to having the majority of their sales transiting towards shorter-range battery packs.

"That is as a result of customers learning from existing owners; you no longer drive until the tank is empty. You treat your car like you do a cell phone; you plug in whenever you can," he says.

That is all about changing the mindset.

So what about the range versus cost battle? "One litre of petrol in Ireland costs €1.40; that will take a car 20km or so. How much will it cost for an EV to do the same distance – let's say with 200kWh? Now 1kWh is 16 cents. So it costs 65 cents for the electric EV to cover 20km."

"If I saw a sign out side a petrol station saying it was selling for 65 cents-a-litre there would be queues around the corner."

At the moment public charging in Ireland is free but that will change this year. It is also likely that 50pc of owners will mostly charge at home mostly, the rest at shopping centres or work.

Such trends have a major impact on owners and would-be buyers, he believes: "When customers see the savings they immediately change their outlook."

So when will EVs become affordable?

The Volkswagen ID will be affordable – it is due here for next year – he says. So will Audi's Q4 e-tron –

"much more affordable" (from now until 2025 there will be 12 full-electric Audis).

"And that is just Audi."

To pinpoint how swiftly and firm the changeover could be, Kjell draws my attention to an annual survey in his native Norway.

People were asked if they would revert to fossil fuel vehicles if all the electric-car incentives were withdrawn.

A substantial 80pc said they would not go back.

"It is my own mindset that it would be a step back. I don't want to go back," he says.

But on the basis of expected take-off in Ireland, and across Europe, he stresses how vital that it is far more is spent on research and development.

"We need to spend a lot more money on R&D to make sure there will be enough supply," he adds.

"We need to be prepared for a huge increase in demand."

"We need to keep researching on the likes of the solid state battery."

Why?

Because, Kjell believes, we are much nearer to massive electric-car use and demand than we think.

● Are you thinking of buying an electric car? Let us know:

ecunningham@independent.ie

Major survey reveals how we're expecting autonomous cars on our roads in 11 years

A SIGNIFICANT number of Irish people expect to see autonomous vehicles on our roads over the next decade or so (11 years to be precise), according to a new survey. And more than a quarter (27pc) said they'd consider buying one.

Nearly half (44pc) believe 'driverless vehicles' will mean fewer accidents, but a significant 25pc feel there will be more crashes.

The findings emerge from research conducted by Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

They also show how 28pc expect to be able to access autonomous vehicles much the same as they currently do trains and buses.

Even though a hire-car company conducted the research, it is still surprising to find that 15pc of those who responded to the survey believe the main access to driverless cars will be through rental. At the same time, 27pc say they intend buying one.

The Enterprise research also found that:

■ 28pc of adults believe autonomous vehicles will completely replace conventional cars.

■ 56pc of drivers said that even if they buy one, they will also hold on to a conventional car. Main reasons for that include 'missing driving too much' (29pc), wanting to be in control (29pc) and preferring to drive their families etc (19pc).

The report says the 'feeling among Irish adults' is that it will take another 11 years (no I don't understand why it's 11 either) before we see driverless cars on the roads.

Potential passengers who believe they would feel comfortable riding in one said it would still take four years from introduction for them to use one (28pc), while nearly (9pc) would be happy to travel from the outset.

A third (33pc) think they will forget how to drive when autonomous cars become the norm.

A quarter (24pc) believe the cars will drive at exactly the same speed, like carriages on a train.

Nearly three-quarters (74pc)



believe someone with a driving licence should be aboard. Just 11pc think that children should be able to travel without an adult in the car.

Around half (44pc) stressed they would still keep their eyes on the road. Just a quarter think they will be able to relax, but 17pc expect to be able to work or read. One-in-eight feel they'll be able to sleep.

More than one-third (36pc) never expect to feel completely comfortable; 56pc said they prefer to be 'in control'.

A quarter (24pc) fear the vehicles could be 'hacked', 7pc fear being locked in and 6pc worry they'll be driven to the wrong destination.

George O'Connor, managing director of Enterprise Rent-A-Car Ireland, says: "The research shows that Irish consumers are generally excited about the planned arrival of autonomous vehicles."

"However, there are many elements that will determine when driverless cars become mainstream including the technology itself, consumer attitudes, affordability and public policy."

● Audi has shown two city car concepts at Shanghai Motor Show.

● And Volkswagen is thinking about an all-electric off-roader as part of its new ID vehicle family, it is reported.

The production version of the ID hatch will launch later this year with many more due to be built on the new MEB platform.

This week in Shanghai the automaker unveiled a new large SUV concept called the ID Roomzz large SUV concept, sparking questions and speculation it will make an electric off-roader sooner rather than later.

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X5 30d M Sport A/T, Sunstone, Individual Lthr, 21" Alys, Vis / Tech / M-Sport + Pks	€122,293	€109,995	€12,298
X5 30d M Sport A/T, Phytonic, Individual Lthr, 22" Alys, M-Sport + Vis / Tech Pks	€120,434	€112,995	€7,439
X5 30d xLine A/T, Arctic Grey, Ivory Lthr, 19" Alys, 7 Seats, Sun Pro, Ambient Lighting	€93,997	€89,995	€4,002
X4 xDrive20d M Sport A/T, Black Sapphire/Alpine White, Black Lthr	CHOICE FROM €70,553	€64,995	€5,558
X3 xDrive20d M Sport A/T, Alpine White, Black Lthr, 19" Alys, Sun Pro, Park Assist	€64,546	€59,995	€4,551
X3 xDrive20d xLine A/T, Jet Black/Glacier Silver, Oyster/Black Lthr	CHOICE FROM €61,840	€55,995	€5,845
X3 xDrive20d SE A/T, Jet Black, Canberra Beige Lthr, 18" Alys, Park Assist, Ambient	€57,384	€52,995	€4,389
X2 xDrive18d M Sport A/T, Milano Blue, Oyster Lthr, 19" Alys, Extended Storage	€52,398	€47,995	€4,403
X1 xDrive18d Sport A/T, Grey/White, Oyster/Mocha Lthr	CHOICE FROM €47,772	€41,995	€5,777
X1 xDrive18d SE A/T, Jet Black, Black Lthr, 17" Alys, Ext'd Storage, PDC, Cruise, Nav	€43,937	€40,995	€2,942
X1 xDrive 18d Man, Alpine White, Black Lthr, 17" Alys, Ext'd Storage, PDC, Cruise	€43,937	€38,995	€4,942
3 Series			
840d xDrive Coupe A/T, Barcelona Blue, Merino Lthr, 20" Alys, Conf / Tech / Vis Pks	€128,040	€109,995	€18,045
7 Series			
730d Exclusive A/T, Arctic Grey, Ivory White/Black Lthr, 19" Alys, EXTRAS	€103,789	€89,995	€13,794
6 Series			
630d xDrive GT M Sport A/T, Bluestone, Ivory Lthr, 20" Alys, M-Sport + Tech Pks	€94,523	€83,995	€10,528
5 Series			
520d M Sport A/T, White / Bluestone, Black / Ivory Lthr	CHOICE FROM €62,587	€55,995	€6,592
520d xDrive SE A/T, Sophistic Grey, Black Lthr, 17" Alys, Rev Camera, Hi Beam	€59,307	€53,995	€5,312
520d SE A/T, Imperial Blue/Black, Cognac/Black Leather	CHOICE FROM €55,890	€48,995	€6,895
518d SE A/T, Bluestone / Jet Black, Ivory White / Black Lthr	CHOICE FROM €53,003	€45,995	€7,008
4 Series			
420d xDrive M Sport Gran Coupe A/T, Mineral Grey, Black Lthr, 19" Alys, Sport+ Pk	€62,093	€56,995	€5,098
420d Sport Gran Coupe A/T, Alpine White, Black Lthr, 18" Alys, Sport Pk, Sun Pro	€54,863	€49,995	€4,868
3 Series			
320d M Sport A/T, Portimao Blue, Black Lthr, 17" Alys, Comfort / M-Sport + Tech Pk	€62,101	€55,995	€6,106
320d M Sport A/T, Black Sapphire, Oyster Lthr, 18" Alys, Sun Pro, Ambient Lighting	€55,202	€49,995	€5,207
318d SE Man, Jet Black, Black Sensatec, 17" Alys, SE Plus Pk, Ambient, Cruise	€45,339	€39,995	€5,344
2 Series			
218i SE Convertible A/T, Seaside Blue, Oyster Lthr, 17" Alys, Cruise, Heated Seats	€48,217	€43,995	€4,222
218i Sport A/T, Sunset Orange, Black Lthr, 17" Alys, Cruise, Front Pogs	€42,745	€36,995	€5,750
216d SE Gran Tourer A/T, Black, Black Sensatec, 16" Alys, 7 Seats, Ext'd Storage	€41,712	€36,995	€4,717
1 Series			
116d M Sport Shadow Ed Man, Alpine White, Black Lthr, 18" Alys, Ext'd Storage	€40,809	€36,995	€3,814
116i M Sport A/T, Alpine White, Black Lthr, 18" Alys, PDC, Cruise, Ext'd Storage	€40,310	€36,995	€3,315
116i M Sport Shadow Ed A/T, Sunset Orange, Black Lthr, 18" Alys, Ext'd Storage	€41,968	€35,995	€5,973
116i Sport A/T, Mineral Grey, Oyster/Black Lthr, 17" Alys, Ext'd Storage	€37,735	€33,995	€3,740
116i SE A/T, Alpine White, Oyster/Black Lthr, 17" Alys, Ext'd Storage, Bluetooth	€36,662	€31,995	€4,667
i Range			
i3s iB1s, Melbourne Red/Imperial Blue, Neutronic Cloth	CHOICE FROM €43,221	€39,995	€3,226

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Automatic	€46,277	€40,769	-€5,508
Automatic	€47,188	€41,621	-€5,567

318d SPORT SALOON	PRICE NEW	SALE PRICE	SAVE
Manual	€46,165	€40,664	-€5,501
Manual	€47,086	€41,525	-€5,561
Automatic	€48,138	€42,341	-€5,797
Automatic	€49,614	€43,715	-€5,899

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Tucson or not? Spoilt for choice? €8,000 for second car? Best hybrid? New PCP?



Car-value expert Gillian Keogh teams up with Motoring Editor Eddie Cunningham to help you make the right choice with your next purchase. Gillian is Editor of a monthly guidebook on the values of used cars produced by the Motor Trade Publishers team. The team supplies a car-valuing service to the motor trade, insurance companies and finance houses



INDEPENDENT ADVICE DESK

ecunningham@independent.ie

I drive a 151 Peugeot 5008 with 110,000km. I do 30,000km each year – the majority of which would be shortish journeys: school runs, matches, activities etc. We have three children aged from 10 to 5. We are looking to change to a 17-reg or 18-reg car. Our Peugeot is just out of warranty and things are starting to go wrong. We don't really need a 7-seater – it's handy but not necessary. One child is in a high-back booster, the other two on booster cushions. We are thinking of a Hyundai Tucson. Would you recommend this for our needs?

Are there any other cars that you think we should consider? Our budget is around €15k.

Gillian: I would have absolutely no concerns about buying a Hyundai Tucson 1.7 dsl.

They are popular and have been since the day they launched. You should get into a 181 Comfort Plus model, but maybe look to push your budget a tad more for the Executive spec.

There is a new model 1.6 dsl out now, so you will be buying the older model, just something to think about.

I was surprised you didn't mention the new model Peugeot 5008, although if you don't need the seven seats then perhaps you have ruled it out.

The 3008SUV might be the answer though. You might need to go for a 171 if

you want the high spec GT Line model but I would expect it to impress you and the kids. The floor in the back is flat (no hump behind front centre console) which is perfect for older children and there is plenty of room for three booster seats back there too.

Other choices include the Kia Sportage 1.7 dsl (also has a new 1.6 dsl model out recently), the SEAT Ateca and my go-to family favourite, the Nissan Qashqai.

Eddie: All I'll say is the Tucson is the best seller most months and has been for a few years now. That says a lot about it and makes it an obvious reason to buy one.

The nearest to it, I feel, is the KIA Sportage which I think looks that bit better.

But if you're thinking Tucson then go for it.

I've had a couple of promotions over the past couple of years and after skimping on a car for a long time, I can afford something 'sporty' for around €40,000. Nothing too big or ostentatious. Something nice and smart for me – and my boyfriend. What would you suggest? I'd go for a new model, preferably, but one of fairly recent vintage would do. Either way I need it to be a bit special.

Gillian: Go BMW 4 series M Sport auto. You won't get a brand new one, but you will go close.

It's a sexy looking motor and the boyfriend is sure to love it.

The Audi A5 S Line auto is every bit as good as the 4 series; it is just down to your taste.

Again, you won't get a 191-reg. As much as I love both, and I would have

either of them, I have a huge soft spot for the Lexus RC 300h.

Its shape screams 'sports car' and the F Sport model will certainly impress.

It's a head-turner on the road and there aren't a huge number of them so you will have a sense of being different.

It is a hybrid so not only will you look "cool" but you will be helping the environment and saving on fuel. Win, win in my opinion.

Eddie: Hard to argue with those choices especially as the Lexus RC has recently got something of a facelift. Lovely, underrated drive.

There is one other I'd look at if I were you and it's the Mercedes C-Class Coupe. I really like the look of it. As well as good looks it has a lovely interior.

Buy new, not used, if you can because it's been overhauled relatively recently and it's a much better package as a result.

We have a budget of €8,000 for a second car because our family circumstances have changed (for the better I'm glad to say). Definitely need a 5-seater and two child seats. My husband and I are stressed out trying to get by with the one car now both of us are working. Any ideas would be greatly appreciated.

Gillian: A family hatch is what I would be looking for and as new possible with a reputation for reliability.

The Ford Focus, Toyota Corolla/Auris, Kia Cee'd, Hyundai i30 – the list goes on – Peugeot 308, Opel Astra etc.

For €8k you will get into around the 131-reg mark in petrol (where available) or

12 in diesel, so you need to decide which fuel type is best for your expected annual driving.

As a general rule: if it's under 20,000km then a petrol will do the trick, but will be limited in numbers.

If it's definitely more than 25,000km then stick with diesel where there is great value at the minute and more choice.

Look for boots that suit buggies, look for back seats that have room for growing children, look for well spec'd models rather than basic models and always look for full service history.

If you are buying privately, which is a good place to go with €8k, do a history check on it first and get a mechanic or someone with good car know-how to take it for a spin.

Eddie: Well that's all the passenger car possibilities exhausted, thank you Gillian, so let me take a left-field perspective for a moment.

How about a fresh Volkswagen Caddy Maxi Life people carrier which has loads of room and lots of places to carry family stuff? It's a durable motor and might suit your needs better than a hatchback. Be careful: buy it or any of Gillian's suggestions from a reputable dealer if you can please. I don't like the idea of you trading on the open market. As a cash customer a good dealer will do you a good deal.

I want to buy an electric car eventually but a hybrid will do me for the next three or four years. What would you suggest for someone like me with a budget of €20,000 for a five-seater? There would be no trade-in.

Gillian: Good plan. Not sure what size

five-seater you need, so I will give you some suggestions that fit your price range.

Let's start with the main hybrid manufacturer for Ireland – Toyota – with models ranging from the small hatch Yaris up to the popular CH-R crossover. The new-model Yaris hybrid starts at just €19,850 so you could get yourself a 191-reg (or 192 if you can hold off until July). The new Corolla hybrid starts at €26,370 so it is out of budget but it will be a great seller and is so good to drive.

The older model Auris is a similar size and for €20k you should get into a 171 well specified version. Larger again is the CH-R with shapes and curves that divide opinions. I love the lines and styling but it's only out since late 2016 so you would need to be lucky to find a 162.

There is a larger SUV hybrid model with the RAV4 but only available since 2016 and unfortunately is out of budget.

Moving away from Toyota but sticking with their luxury brand – Lexus have some options. The CT200h is a well kitted out hatchback or if you need something bigger the IS300h saloon is an option too. After that, the Kia Niro and Hyundai Ioniq might suit, but they are scarce and might be out of your price range.

Eddie: I think the surest option is a fresh Toyota Prius hybrid. It has been doing the job for a long time now and seems to me to be the five-seater you are looking for – especially if you need space for family.

Eddie writes: We are getting a lot of enquiries about renewing PCPs. It is something to which we will return

in the near future, but to the many who have asked about various facets please remember the following:

The car you have been driving under your current PCP is not yours until you have paid all repayments and whatever lump sum is outstanding.

Most people don't take that route. They opt for a new car and PCP deal. However, some people think the Guaranteed Minimum Value of the car is its worth as a trade-in. It is not. The only equity in the car – presuming there is any – is the difference between the Guaranteed Minimum Value and what the car is worth on the market at a given time.

A well worked-out PCP will allow for a decent wedge of equity to remain when the term of the deal is up. But in many cases you may find it necessary to inject extra cash towards a deposit if you wish to maintain repayments at the levels of your current deal.

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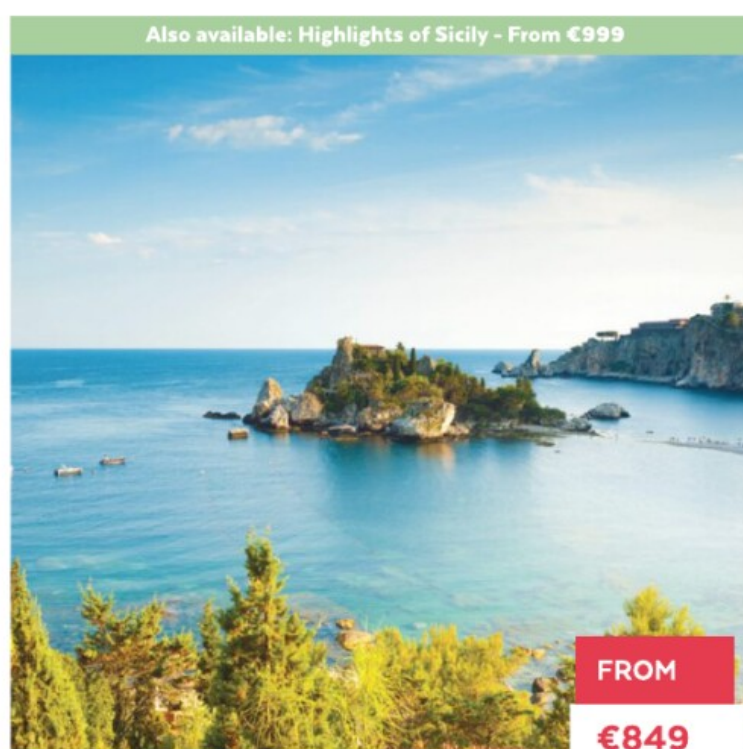
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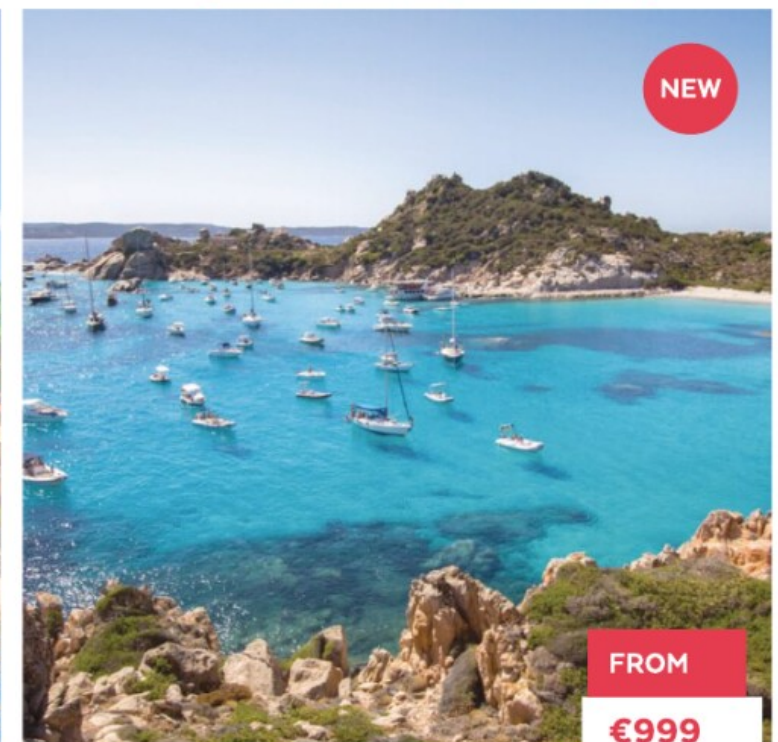
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Ask for details!

FROM €659

Cannes & the Côte d'Azur

Fully Guided | 7 Nights | 4★ B&B

Flights from Dublin to Nice
7 nights in Cannes
A full day excursion to Monaco, including Monte Carlo and the Villa Rothschild and Gardens
A full day excursion to the medieval town of Grasse and the painters' village of St. Paul-de-Vence
A full day excursion to Antibes and Nice

Holiday Departure Months
J F M **A M J J A S O N D**

2020 DATES AVAILABLE

FROM €749

Discover Dubrovnik

Fully Guided | 7 Nights | 3★ Half board

Solo friendly available
Flights from Dublin to Dubrovnik
7 nights in Dubrovnik
A city tour of Dubrovnik's walled Old Town, with entrance to the Franciscan Monastery and City Cathedral included
A full day boat trip to the Elaphite Islands
A full day excursion to Montenegro, with highlights including Boka Bay and the UNESCO world heritage site of Kotor
Please note that in July and August Montenegro will be replaced with an excursion to Korcula island

Holiday Departure Months
J F M A **M J J A S O N D**

2020 DATES AVAILABLE

FROM €769

Highlights of the Montenegro Riviera

Fully Guided | 7 Nights | 4★ All-Inclusive

All-Inclusive holiday
Flights from Dublin to Dubrovnik
7 nights in Becici Resort, just outside the historic coastal town of Budva
A half day tour of Budva Old Town
A full day excursion to Cetinje, Montenegro's old royal capital, via the spectacular Serpentine Mountain Road
A full day excursion to Perast and Kotor including a boat trip on Boka Bay

Holiday Departure Months
J F M A **M J J A S O N D**

2020 DATES AVAILABLE

NEW

FROM €979

Greece - In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great

Fully Guided | 7 Nights | 4★ B&B / Half board
5★ Half board

Flights from Dublin to Athens
3 nights in Athens and 4 nights in Thessaloniki
A half day tour of Athens to include the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Erechion and the Panathinaiko Stadium
A full day transfer to Thessaloniki with a guided stop at Meteora
A half day tour of Thessaloniki, Greece's cultural capital
A full day to the archaeological site of Pella, including Edessa
A full day excursion to Vergina and Veroia
A full day transfer to Athens including a guided stop at Dion

Holiday Departure Months
J F M A **M J J A S O N D**

2020 DATES AVAILABLE

FROM €1,159

Prague, Vienna & Budapest

Fully Guided | 10 Nights | 4★ B&B

Flights from Dublin to Prague, returning from Budapest
4 nights in Prague, 2 nights in Vienna and 4 nights in Budapest
A half day guided tour in each city; Prague, Vienna and Budapest
A half day excursion to the 13th century Bohemian castle at Český Šternberk
A boat trip on the Danube in Budapest

Holiday Departure Months
J F M A **M J J A S O N D**

FROM €1,679

Fjords of Norway

Fully Guided | 7 Nights | 3★ & 4★ B&B / Half board

Flights from Dublin to Oslo
3 nights in Oslo, 1 night in Flam, 2 nights in Bergen and 1 night in Lofthus
A scenic train journey on the Flam Railway
A fjord cruise along the Naeroyfjord
A half day walking tour of Bergen and Oslo
A scenic drive along the Hardangerfjord
Travel through the Mabodal Valley to Eidfjord

Holiday Departure Months
J F M A **M J J A S O N D**

Irish Independent


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**Travel
Department**
Let's see more...

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2020 DATES AVAILABLE



FROM €1,599

Splendours of India

Fully Guided | 11 or 12 Nights | 4 ★ & 5 ★ Half board


Solo friendly available

- Return flights from Dublin to Delhi (via Dubai or Abu Dhabi)
- 3 nights in Delhi, with excursions to Old and New Delhi and Qutub Minar
- 1 night in Agra, with excursions to the Agra Fort and a sunrise tour of the Taj Mahal
- 2 nights in Jaipur, the "pink city", including a city tour and the Amber Fort
- 2 nights in Jodhpur with a city tour and a visit to Ranakpur Temple Complex
- 2 nights in Udaipur, to include a visit to the City Palace Museum and a boat cruise on the Lake Pichola
- 10 nights accommodation and 1 or 2 overnight flights

3 day extension to Dubai available from €2,229 **NEW**

Holiday Departure Months

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FROM €2,099

Beijing, Xi'an & Shanghai

Fully Guided | 11 or 12 Nights | 4 ★ or 5 ★ Half board

Solo friendly available

- Direct flight from Dublin to Beijing, returning from Shanghai (all via Beijing, Dubai or Abu Dhabi)
- 5 nights in Beijing, with excursions to the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall of China, the Lama Temple and Temple of Heaven, the Imperial Summer Palace, Beijing Zoo and Olympic Village
- 3 nights in Xi'an to include a full day excursion to see the Terracotta Warriors and Horses and a visit to the Old City Wall
- 2 nights in Shanghai with an excursion to the Yu Garden, the old town of Shanghai, Xintiandi Street and a visit to the Jin Mao Tower
- 10 nights accommodation and 1 or 2 overnight flights

3 day extension to Dubai from €2,699 **NEW**

Holiday Departure Months

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FROM €2,499


Highlights of Vietnam

Fully Guided | 14 Nights | 4 ★ & 5 ★ B&B / Half board

- Flights from Dublin to Hanoi, returning from Ho Chi Minh City (all via Dubai or Doha)
- 2 nights in Hanoi with a full day tour including Ho Chi Minh complex
- 1 night in Halong with a sailing experience of Halong Bay
- 3 nights in Hoi An including a walking tour and a Vietnamese cooking class
- 1 night in Hue with a Perfume River cruise to Thien Mu Pagoda
- 4 nights in Ho Chi Minh City with two half day tours, a half day excursion to the Cu Chi Tunnels and a full day to Cai Be with a Mekong Delta river cruise
- 1 night in Can Tho visiting Cai Rang floating market and Khmer Pagoda
- 12 nights accommodation and 2 overnight flights

Holiday Departure Months

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FROM €2,899

Highlights of Cuba

Fully Guided | 11 Nights | 4 ★ B&B / All-Inclusive

- Return flights from Dublin to Havana, all via Toronto
- 5 nights in Havana with a half day walking tour of Old Havana, an afternoon excursion of 1950's Havana in vintage classic cars and a half day visiting the haunts of Hemingway, including his former home
- A full day excursion to Pinar del Rio with a visit to a 'veguero' (tobacco farmer) and a boat trip through the 'Cueva del Indio' (Indian Caves)
- Enjoy a scenic rail journey with a tour of the village of Hershey
- 5 nights in Varadero including a full day jeep tour of the province of Matanzas
- A city tour of Toronto is included
- 10 nights accommodation and 1 overnight flight

3 day extension to Toronto available from €3,499 **NEW**

Holiday Departure Months

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